Chapter 89 A Late Happiness

SAEKO IS BEDRID-DEN!?

FOR TEN YEARS...

THIS CASE DIDN'T LET HER TAKE A BREATHER. NOW THAT THE CASE IS CLOSED, THE PRESSURE IS GOING DOWN.

SFX: TAP

NAME PLATE: NOGAMI SAEKO

野上冴子

...

DID YOU GO SEE HER?

STILL... FOR THIS IRON SUPER-INTENDENT TO COLLAPSE... HARD TO BELIEVE.

NAH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FEVER. SHE'LL REVOVER IN NOT TIME.

...

AT LEAST IT PROVES SHE STILL HAS A FEMININE SIDE!

THIS CONTRACT KILLER I KNEW...

SFX: DING DONG

...

SFX: CHI

HE HAD A HEART ATTACK... BOOM! DEAD...

HE WAS A CALM, BRILLIANT GUY BUT EVEN SO, MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE RELEASE OF TENSION, THE DAY HE WALKED INTO RETIRE-MENT...

HE...?

...

IT CAN'T BE...!

SFX: CELL PHONE RING

HEY! WOAH! DON'T TALK CRAP LIKE THAT!

HE... HELLO?

ｺﾞｸﾘ

SFX: GULP

はぁ～

OH, IS THAT YOU, AH-SHAN?

SFX: WHEW!

WHERE COULD SHE GO IN THIS STATE!?

SHE CAN'T HAVE LEFT TOO LONG AGO. MAYBE 10 OR 15 MINUTES.

How did you get in?

AH... HEH HEH ...

...

What?

VERY WELL... I SEE... AH-SHAN...

Saeko's not at home!?

NO! ALL I FOUND IS AN EMPTY BED!

DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR ON THE WAY OUT.

TO BREAK INTO A SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE...

Alright, I get it. I think I might know where she went, so let me take care of it. Oh, and Ah-Shan?

HEH HEH ...

WELL, I WAS AFRAID THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY SO I BROKE IN...

SFX: AH!

HE GUESSED WHERE SHE IS?

...

HEADSTONE: MAKIMURA FAMILY GRAVE

植村家之墓

松本家之墓

THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU TODAY...

AT LAST, EVERYTHING IS OVER...

AT LAST...

HIDE-YUKI...

IT BOTHERS ME SO MUCH I CAN'T SLEEP ANYMORE...

YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME...

村家之墓

GRR...

SFX: PFF

FOR THE OTHER THING, TOO... I WOULD LIKE A CLEAR ANSWER.

BUT WOMEN ARE REALLY INSISTING. NOW THAT THIS CASE IS OVER...

村家之墓

I'M SURE YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME FROM IN THERE, LAUGHING AT ME BECAUSE I'M STILL OBSESSED WITH IT AT MY AGE, HIDEYUKI...

ALL OF IT BECAUSE YOU WERE NOT CLEAR...

OUCH!!

SFX: THUD

...

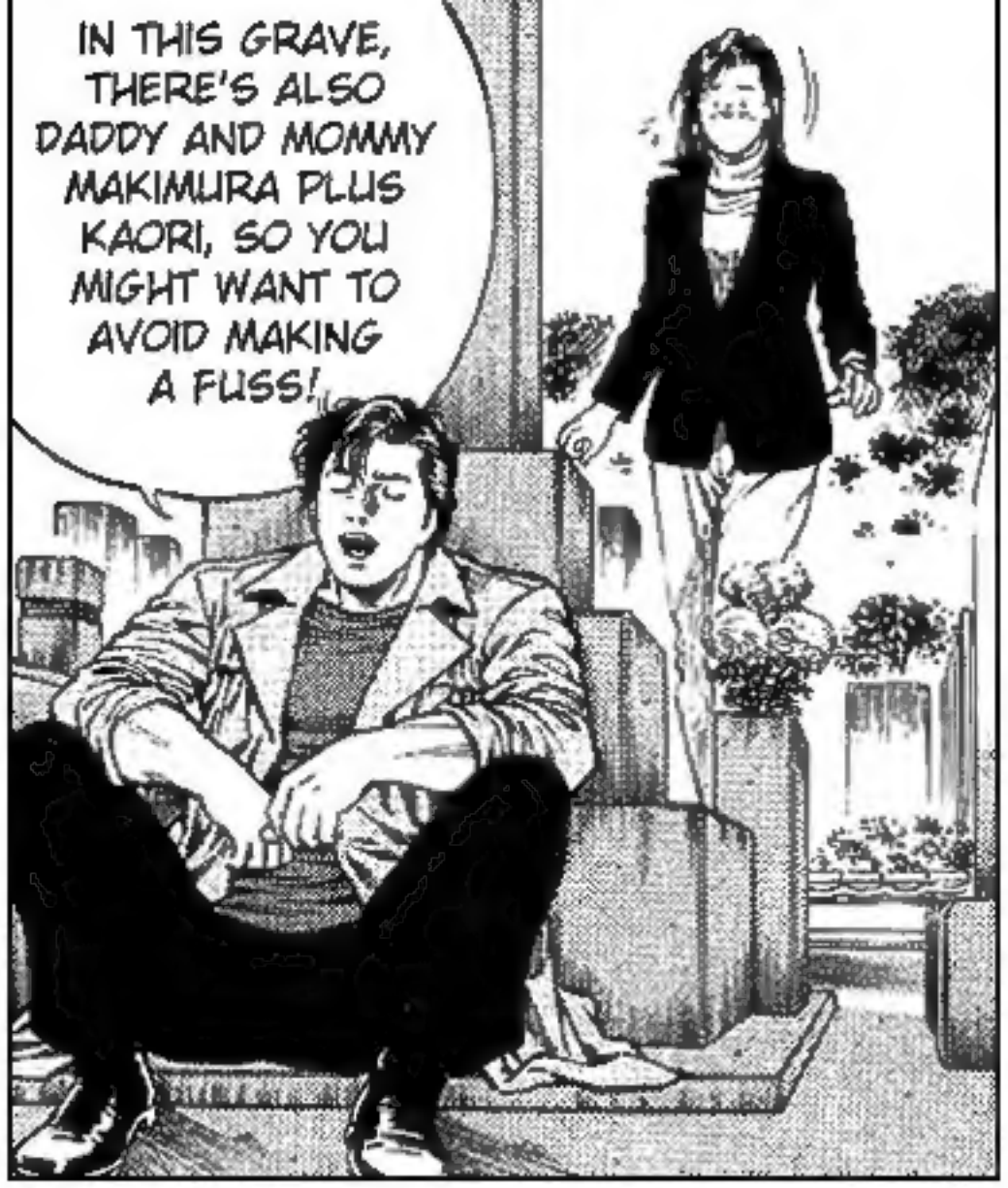
FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU'VE BEEN HITTING THAT STONE FOR 10 YEARS, NOW! IT'S GONNA BREAK! AND YOU'D BETTER PAY FOR IT!

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, IDIOT!

RYO...?

...

IN THIS GRAVE, THERE'S ALSO DADDY AND MOMMY MAKIMURA PLUS KAORI, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO AVOID MAKING A FUSS!



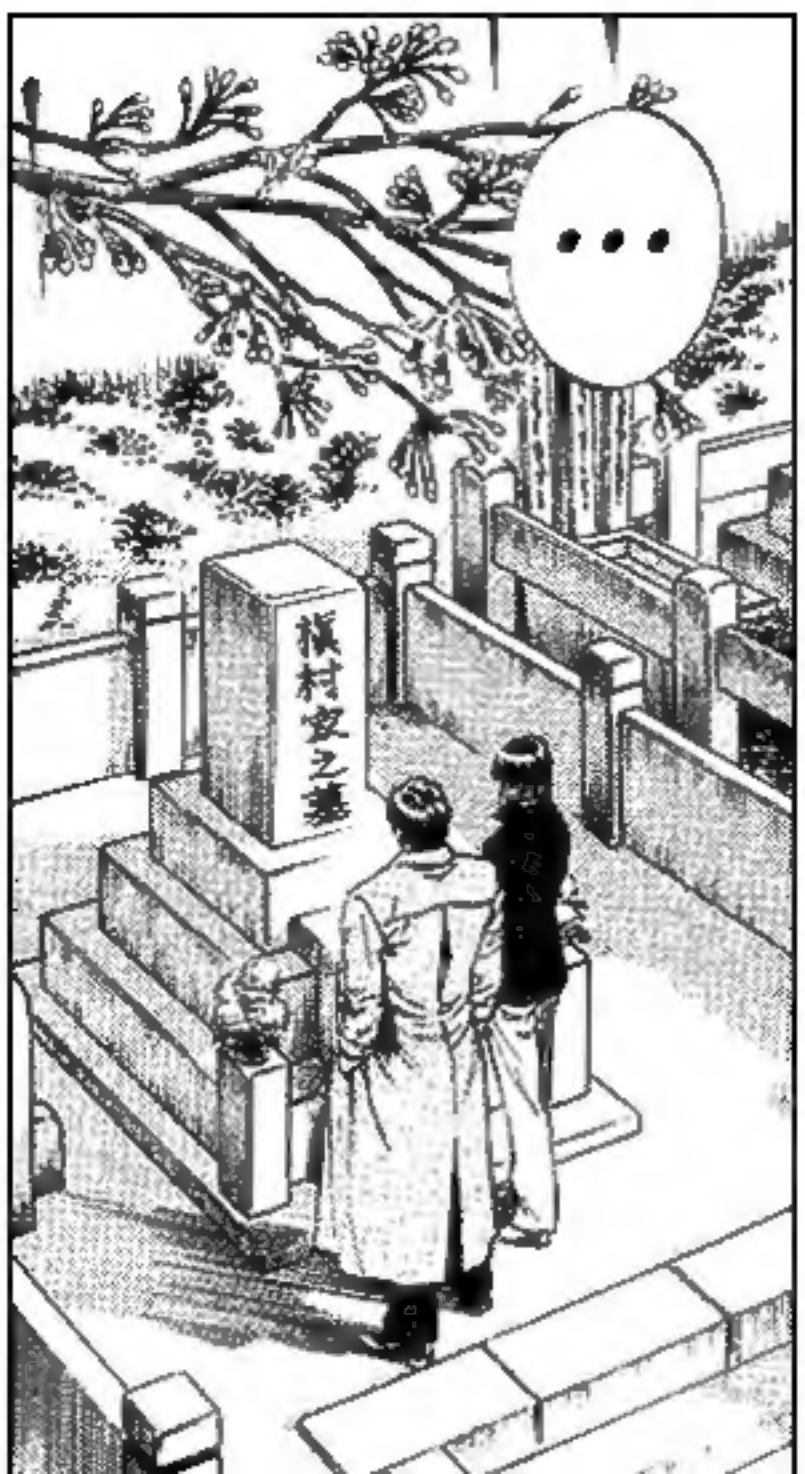
YOU'RE *THAT* OBSESSED WITH IT?

I REMEMBER...

SO THAT'S IT...

NOW THAT THE CASE IS CLOSED, THE MEMORIES THAT I BURIED ARE COMING TO THE SURFACE AND I CAN'T IGNORE THEM ANYMORE...

...



槇村家之墓

WHEN I ARRESTED TOYAMA FOR THE FIRST TIME AND CLOSED THE CASE, MAKIMURA INVITED ME TO DINNER...

WHEN I SAW HIM LIKE THAT, I STARTED TO THINK IT WAS MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE PARTY.

...

AND... I STARTED TO HOPE FOR SOMETHING MORE...

フランス料理

IT'S OKAY? ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT TO RESERVE A TABLE IN SUCH AN EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT?

AH, NO! IT'S OKAY!

HE TOLD ME IT WAS TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE INVESTIGATION.

...

YOU... WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOME-THING?

HIDE-YUKI...?

SFX: BLOOM!

ERH... YES...

IN FACT...

...

...

...

I... YOU...

AH-

SA-SAEKO...

I'M VERY HAPPY THAT YOU CLOSED THIS CASE!

OH.

YEAH.

THANKS.

IF YOU HADN'T SO ADAMANTLY REFUSED OUR HELP, THE CASE COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED A LONG TIME AGO

WELL, YOU HELPED ME A LOT, EVEN THOUGHT IT WASN'T YOUR CASE.

WHO... WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A CHILD WAS GUILTY? HA HA! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

N-NO, BUT I GOT STUCK BY YOUR STUBBORN-NESS!

...

"OUR HELP..."

I WILL NEVER APPROVE OF VIGILANTES WHO THINK THEY UPHOLD THE LAW!

AS FAR AS I'M CON-CERNED

N-NO, SAEKO... SAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...

IT'S TRUE THAT YOU RESOLVED THIS CASE...

HOWEVER!

YOU KNOW IT WELL ENOUGH TO BE SICK OF IT!

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? OF THE LIMITS OF POLICE OPTIONS, OF ITS POWER-LESSNESS!?

SFX: SLAM!

NO! NOT AT ALL! THAT'S NOT WHY-

WE ARE POLICE OFFICERS! DESPITE THIS, YOU TEAM UP WITH THAT PUERILE PERVERT CITY HUNTER!? NONSENSE! YOU INVITED ME HERE TO CONVINCE ME OF YOUR LEGITIMACY?

ALL OF THIS IS JUST TO SATISFY YOUR OWN PRIDE! AS A POLICE OFFICER, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

SO GO ON! TELL ALL ABOUT US! I DON'T CARE!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY FOREVER! STOP THIS INSTANT!

WAIT, SAEKO!

ENOUGH! I'M SICK OF THESE ENDLESS ARGUMENTS!

YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW I SUF-FERED WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOUR ACTIVI-TIES. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU LOOKED THE OTHER WAY.

HH!!

SAEKO, YOU-

AND THINK ABOUT KAORI. TO MIX UP YOUR SISTER IN ALL THIS, IT'S PATHETIC!

SHE WORRIES TO DEATH AND YOU SACRIFICE HER! YOU ARE A TOTAL FAILURE AS A BROTHER!

SFX: SWAT!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

WH- WHAT IS THAT...?

TELL ME ABOUT KAORI...

GUESS WHAT, I DO THINK ABOUT HER.

IT'S... IT'S FOR KAORI. TO THANK HER FOR ALL SHE DOES FOR ME EVERY DAY.

YOU'RE RIDICU-LOUS!

IT IS REALLY FOR KAORI?

THAT JEWEL CASE...

HERE. KAORI-MAMA KEPT IT PRECIOUSLY.

THIS RING... UNCLE MAKIMURA WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU. HE WANTED TO MARRY YOU.

KAORI-MAMA TOLD ME ABOUT IT IN A DREAM...

SFX: CLICK

...

...

HIDE-YUKI...

WANTED...

TO SAEKO

AH...

AAH...

?!...

Bdum

Bdum

Bdum

...

SAEKO...?

THANK YOU...

KAORI...

Bdum

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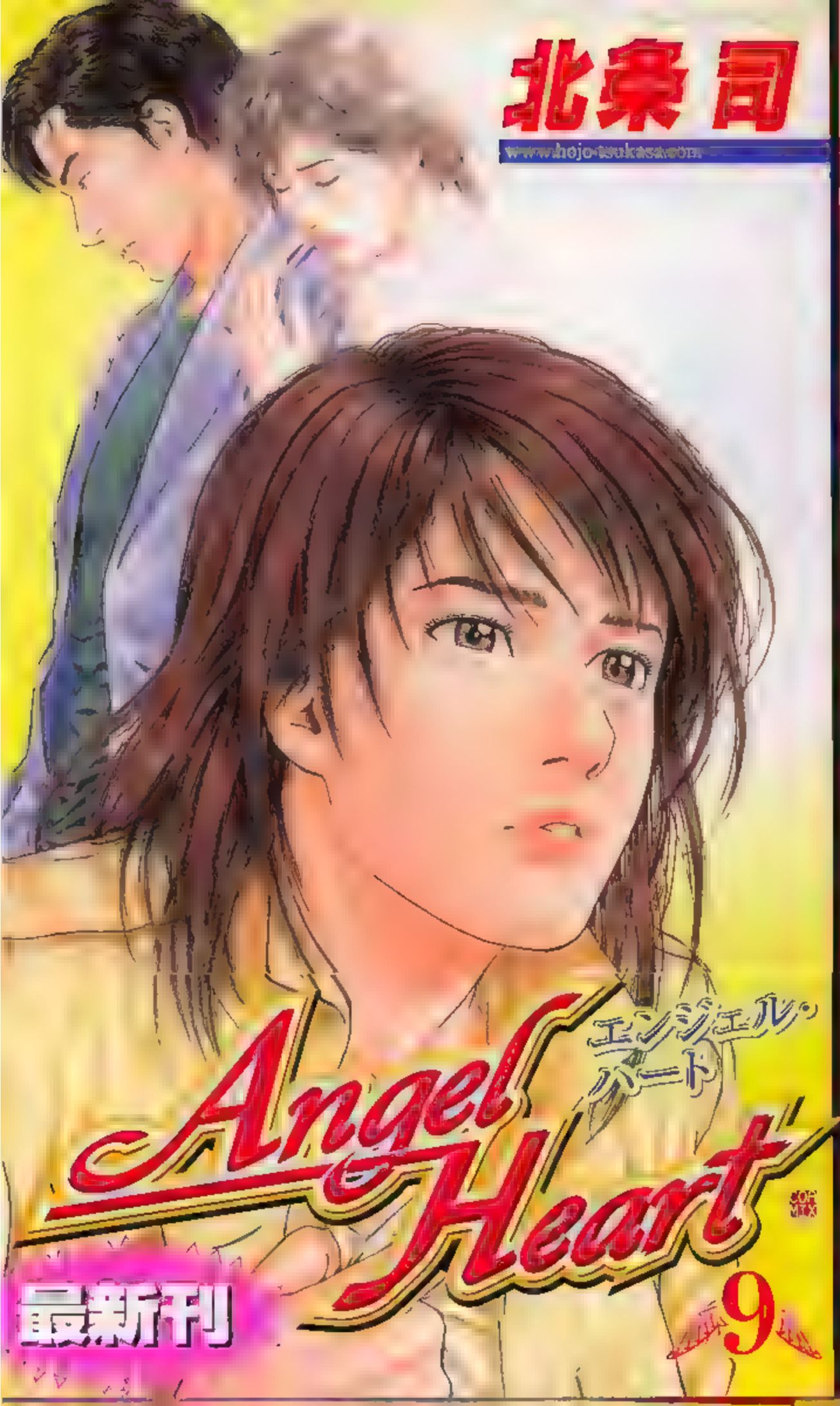

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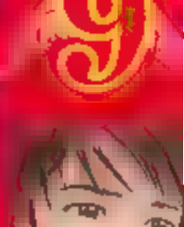
Angel Heart

9

最新刊

エンジェル・ハート 9 CITY HUNTER 北条司



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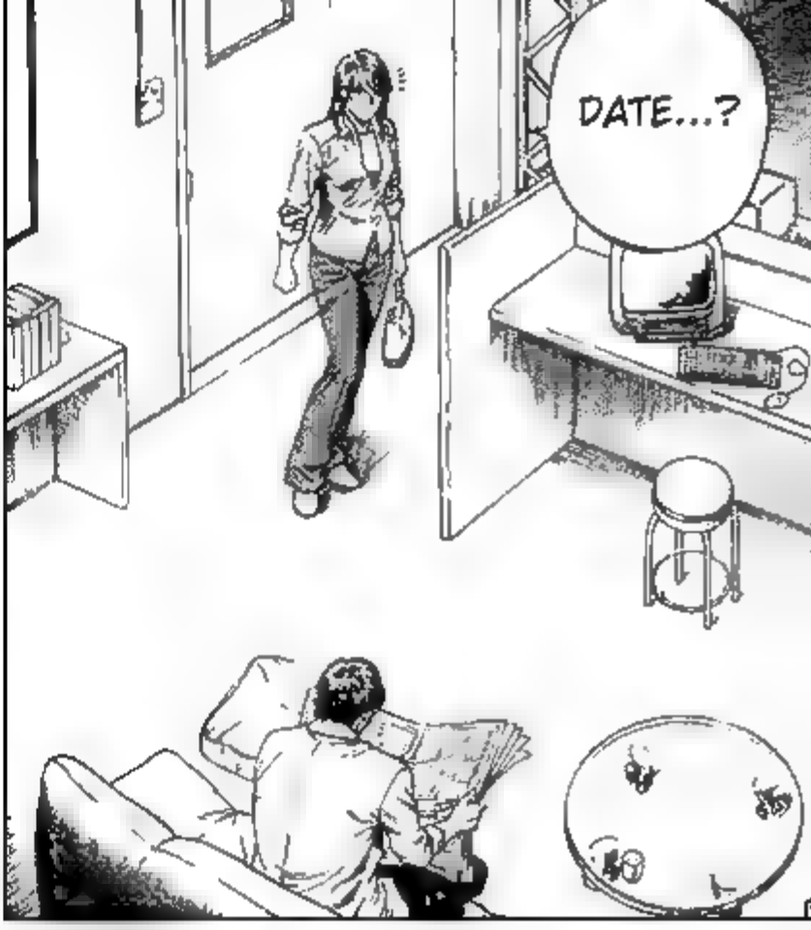
Chapter 90 The Closest Feeling

7 YEARS... IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!
FINALLY...! WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET!
SHA-NIN...
...
AND NEVER TO BE SEPAR-ATED AGAIN!
...SHA-NIN...
I... SCORE!
...!! DEAD ASLEEP!

1
シネマ 2
愛と情熱の狭間
NEXT TIME, INVITE ME TO SOMETHING MORE STIMULATING, SHINHON!
AAAAHH! NAPS ARE GREAT!!
...
HEY, AH-SHAN! SINCE YOU'RE GOING ON A DATE, YOU SHOULD WEAR SOMETHING SEXIER!
...AH, OKAY...
...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD STIR YOUR EMOTIONS.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO SEE A MOVIE! SINCE WE'RE IMPORTANT ASSOCIATES, I SHOULD ACCOMPANY HIM OCCASIONALLY!
N-NO NO!


DATE...?

IN LOVE...
NO... THE STIRRINGS OF BEING IN LOVE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... EVERY TIME SHIN-HON TAKES ME TO THE MOVIES, IT'S ALWAYS A LOVE STORY.
IS HE USING THE MOVIES TO SHOW ME WHAT LOVE IS?
WHEN IT COMES TO MY FEELINGS, THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS I CANNOT GRASP.
HONESTLY...
EVER SINCE MISS SAEKO'S AND UNCLE MAKIMURA'S INCIDENT, EVEN IF I CAN UNDERSTAND IT LOGICALLY...
...

I'M STILL NOT FAMILIAR WITH THOSE KINDS OF FEELINGS...

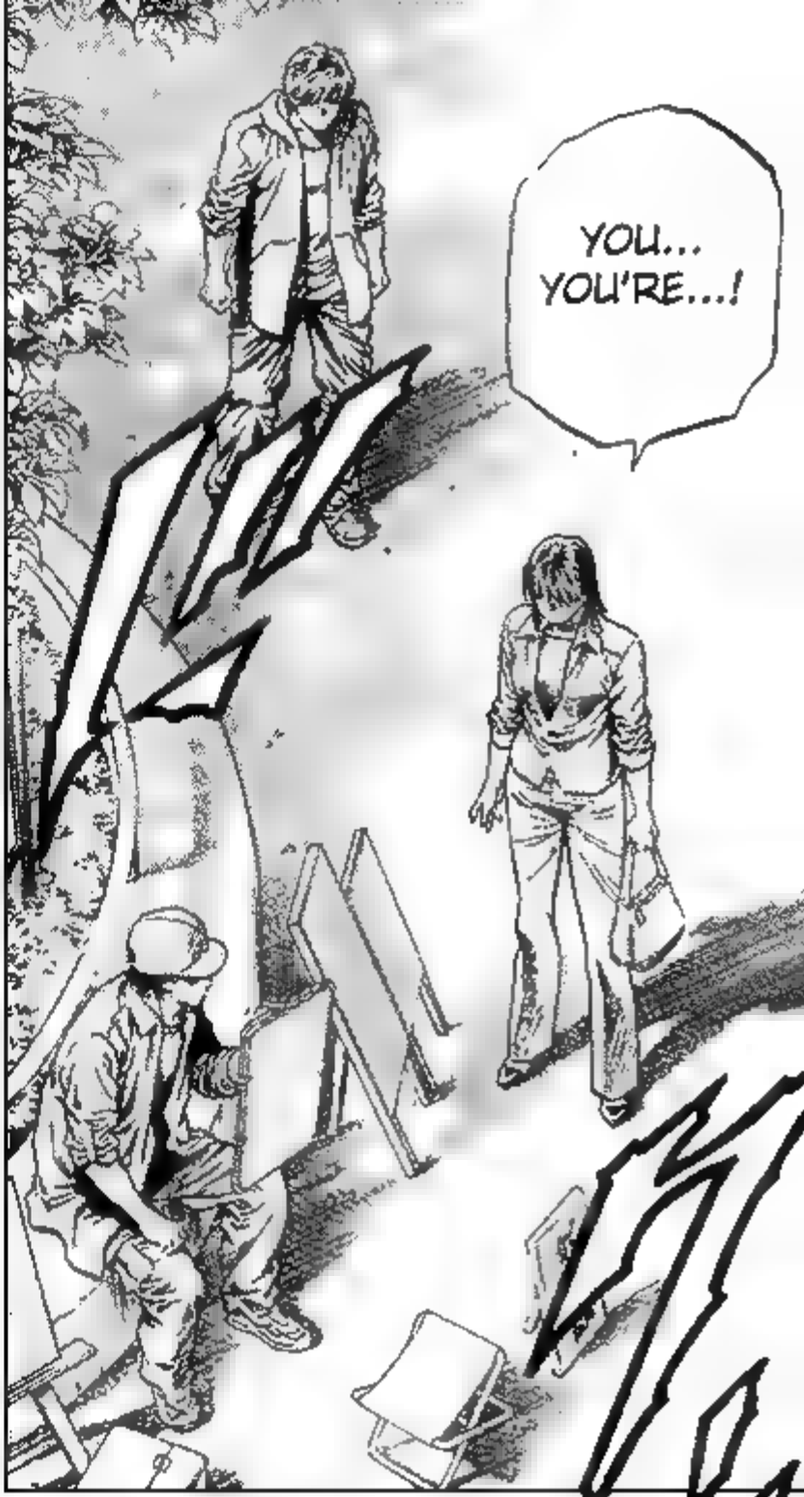
BUT IN SHANIN'S HEART, THE SPRINGTIME OF LOVE IS STILL FAR AWAY.
SUMMER IS DRAWING NEAR...
POOR SHIN-HON!
...
ANYWAY, I'M GOING!
UNFORTU-NATELY, THOSE FILMS ARE TOO BORING!
WHEE!
AHA!
...
HA HA HA!
DON'T WALK SO FAST... EH, COULD YOU... COULD I HOLD YOUR HAND?
ER...?
HEY! HEY, SHANIN!

?
IT'S BECAUSE I... ER.. BECAUSE... SOMETHING... I...!
N-NO...!!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHIN-HON? DO YOU FEEL SICK? IS THAT WHY YOU NEED ME TO HOLD YOUR HAND?
似顔絵
COMIC
THERE YOU GO! THANKS FOR WAITING. YOUR DRAWING IS FINISHED.
SFX: HEARTBEATS
OH, WOW! THANKS A LOT!!
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY, THEN IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

SHA-
NIN?
OH,
WELCOME.
...AH...

SHANIN...?

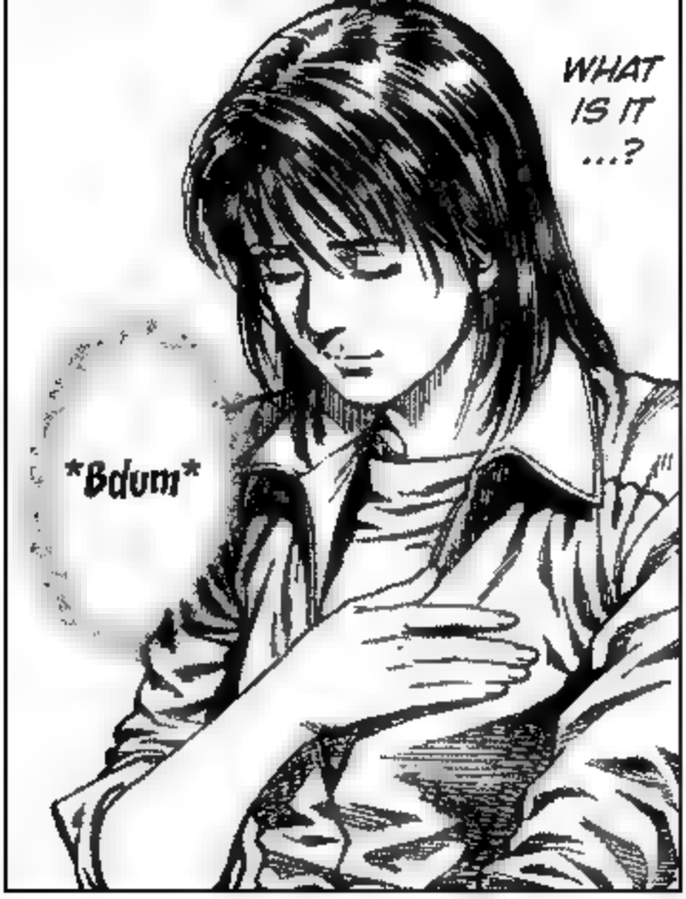
YOU...
MUST
BE...


YOU...
YOU'RE...!

WHO
ARE
YOU?

THAT... I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER...
PLEASE DON'T MOVE...
IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE MET SOME-WHERE BEFORE.
HA HA HA!
HEE HEE!

YOU'RE A REAL TROUBLE-MAKER!
AH...
EVEN IF YOU DID MISTAKE ME FOR SOMEONE... THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.


WHAT IS IT ...?
Bdum

SOMEONE FAMILIAR... NOT REALLY...
...

WHAT IS IT, HIS VOICE, HIS FACE...? WHY DO I REMEMBER HIM...!?
SOMEONE WHO'S A TOTAL STRANGER TO ME...!

Bdum
IT SEEMS LIKE THE SAME FEELING I'VE HAD FOR SOMEONE IN THE PAST...
THIS FEELING OF CLOSENESS ...

Bdum
...

I CAN'T DRAW IT...
EH...?
HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN!?
NO... I CAN'T!
...
YOUR EXPRESSION... YOUR SOUL IS WEIGHED HEAVILY AS IF IT WAS DOUBLED, AN INTANGIBLE FEELING... I CAN'T DRAW THE REAL YOU...!
I... I CAN ONLY SEE YOUR OUTER APPEARANCE...
...
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR MONEY... SORRY...

OH... YOU'RE SAYING IT LACKS... EXPRES-SION
I FELT THE SAME THING, BUT THAT ARTIST SAID IT DIDN'T CAPTURE HER EXPRESSION. JUST A LIFELESS PIECE OF WORK...
...
AH, THIS DRAWING IS AMAZING! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!
HE'S JUST A WEIRD GUY, RIGHT SHANIN?
...
HE SAYS HE LACKS THE SKILL AT THE SAME TIME HE PACKS UP HIS SUPPLIES... BUT THE DRAWING IS EXCELLENT...
...SHA-NIN...?
WHAT IS GOING ON... THAT GUY...
Bdum

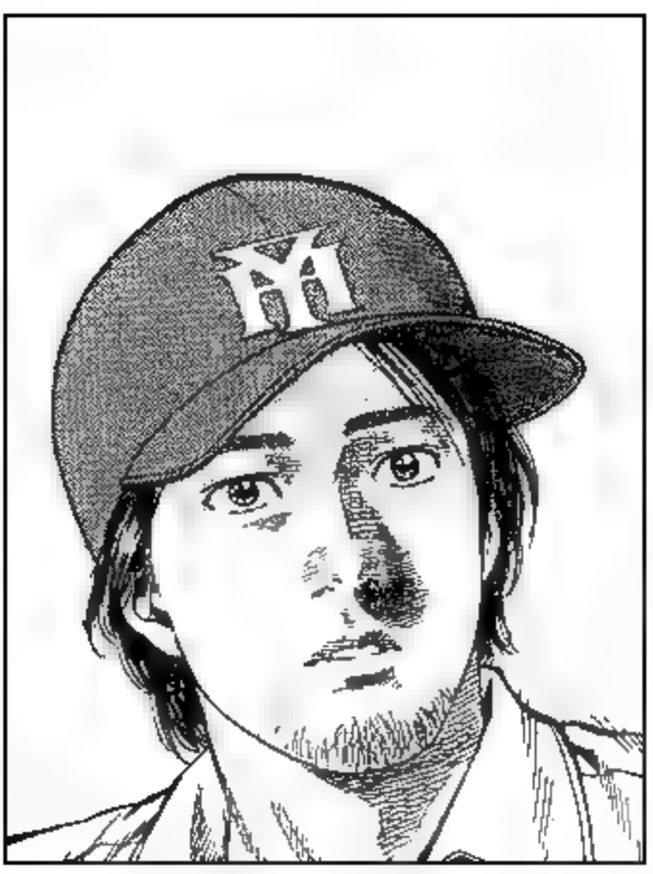
"Bdum"
"Bdum"
"Bdum"
"Bdum"
"Bdum"
WHAT IS THIS FEELING? IS IT REACTING BECAUSE OF YOUR MEMORIES, MAMA?

WON'T YOU TELL ME... MAMA...?
Bdum
HA HA!
HA!
HA HA!
...
HA HA HA
WHEE!
HEE HEE!
KYA HA!
...WHAT... WHAT AM I DOING...?

I'M...
I'M REALLY STUPID...
夏目芳樹個展
I'M SUCH A TOTAL HOPELESS IDIOT!!
#23
夏目芳樹個展
夏目
!!

…
よう。
…?
よう…
夏目芳樹
個展
…
KAORI-
MAMA!?
THAT
GIRL
IS...!!
IT *IS*
MAMA...!

DID YOU JUST CALL KAORI... I MEAN, THE WOMAN IN THIS PICTURE, MAMA?
...MAMA...
I KNEW IT! KAORI-MAMA KNOWS THIS PERSON...!
AND THIS PERSON KNOWS KAORI-MAMA!
Bdum



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Chapter 91 Truthful Expression

KAORI
1987年

KAORI'S DAUGHTER... RIGHT?

YOU'RE...

HA... HA HA!

...

THIS... CAN'T BE POSSIBLE! HOW CAN YOU BE AT YOUR AGE!? KAORI WAS JUST IN HER THIRTIES!

芳展

IF IT'S KAORI MAKI-MURA

PERSON'S PORTRAIT... IS MY MOM'S

...

THEN THIS...

夏目芳樹個展

Bdum

I CAN GUESS... JUDGING FROM HOW IT BOTHERS YOU INSIDE... MAMA

SO... HE WAS KAORI-MAMA'S CLASSMATE FROM JUNIOR HIGH!

HE... NATSUME YOSHIKI MUST HAVE BEEN YOUR FIRST LOVE!!

YOU'RE TOO EMBARASSED TO ANSWER ME, RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

...

AD-OPTED DAUGH-TER!

...

THAT'S JUST LIKE HER...

SO I SEE...

I'M AN ORPHEN, BUT I WAS ADOPTED BY MY PARENTS...

OF COURSE YOU DO!

DO YOU... LIKE YOUR MOTHER?

REALLY...

YES...!

OF COURSE YOU CAN.

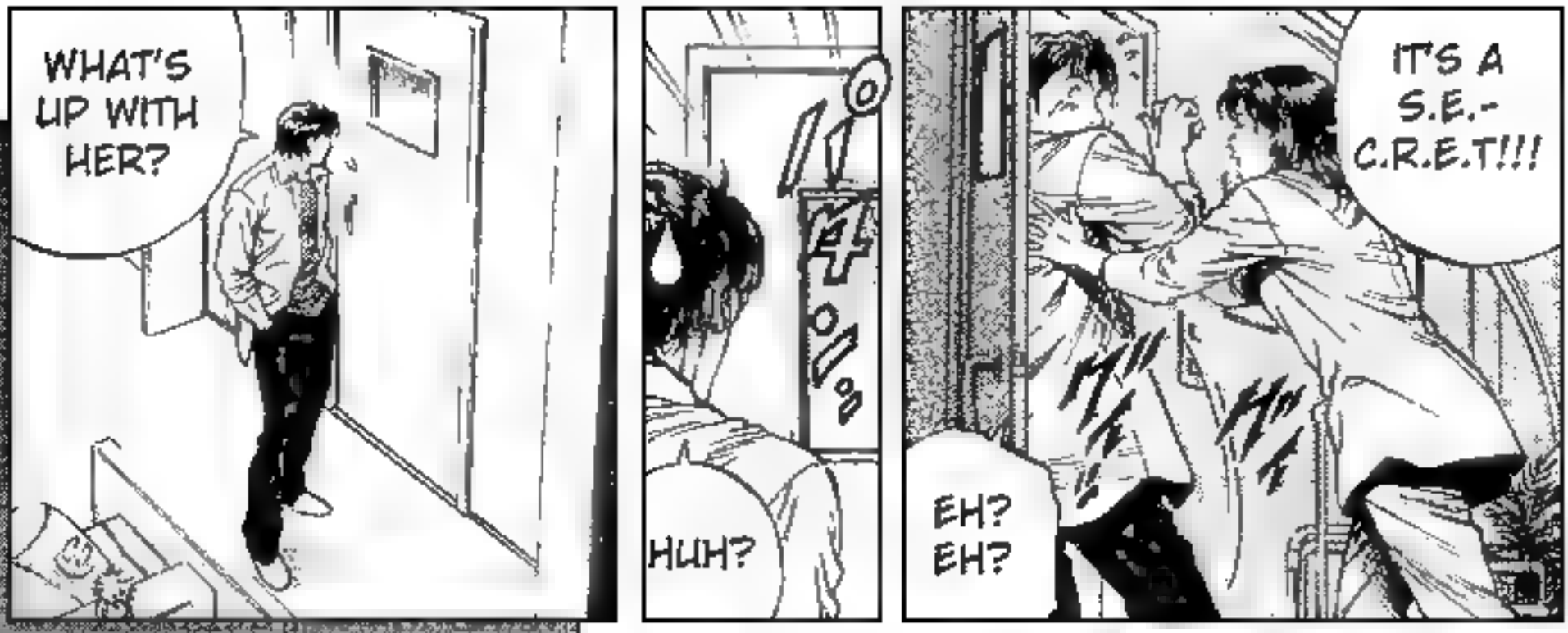
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT... HER... FROM BACK WHEN SHE WAS MY AGE... MY UNKNOWN MOTHER...

AH! THEN... CAN I COME BACK TOMORROW?

HE'S A REALLY NICE PERSON...

WHAT A GENTLE... SMILE...

AH-SHAN?
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TALKING TO THE MIRROR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?


WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
HUH?
EH? EH?
IT'S A S.E.-C.R.E.T!!!

IS MAMA... ALSO EXCITED ABOUT TOMORROW?
Bdum

Bdum

IS IT OKAY...? LEAVING YOUR SOLO EXHIBIT?

DON'T WORRY. THE GALLERY STAFF WILL HELP ME LOOK AFTER IT.

喫茶 Gallary ギャラリー

夏目芳樹 個展

いずみ画廊

Sketch Book

TODAY I BROUGHT SOMETHING YOU MIGHT LIKE...

BY THE WAY, SHANIN...

...?

ALTHOUGH, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC.

...

THE TRUTH IS, I'M ONLY REALLY GOING TO THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES.

AH...

!!

THESE ARE...!!

THEY'RE ALL SKETCHES OF KAORI-MAMA!

EVEN IF...

THEY'RE ALL "FAILURES"

IS WHAT MAMA LOOKED LIKE IN THE PAST.

SO THIS...

FOR SOME REASON, I COULD ONLY EVER DRAW HER OUTER EXPRESSION... ONLY YOUR MOTHER GAVE ME THAT PROBLEM.

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE! THESE SKETCHES... SHE LOOKS SO ALIVE!

HER... SMILE IS CAPTIVATING

NO MATTER HOW I DREW HER, I COULDN'T CONFIDENTLY SAY I CAPTURED HER TRUE EXPRESSION.

...

ONLY YOUR MAMA...

ALL OF MY OTHER CLASS-MATES WERE EASIER TO DRAW...

THAT WAS THE PART I COULDN'T EXPRESS. IT WAS SO FRUSTRATING, SO I JUST KEPT SKETCHING...

BUT I ALWAYS FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN HER, JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE...

SHE WAS ALWAYS FULL OF THIS CONTA-GIOUS CHARM.

PORTRAIT... THAT'S HOW IT CAME TO BE?

SO THAT...

...

ONLY THAT PORTRAIT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS IN THE SKETCH-BOOK...

THERE IS... AN UNKNOWN LONLINESS...

THE TRUTH IS, SHE NEVER MADE THAT EXPRESSION IN FRONT OF ANYONE.

BUT... I FELT THIS WAS THE REAL HER.

WHEN I MANAGED TO DRAW THAT... I DECIDED TO BECOME AN ARTIST. THAT WAS THE DRAWING THAT DECIDED MY CAREER.

...

YOUR MOTHER, SHE DIDN'T LIKE MY DRAWING OF HER PORTRAIT.

BUT KAORI...

...

WHAT...? THIS...?

WA HA!

HA HA!

THIS... IS ME...?

I FELT THAT... THIS WAS THE TRUE YOU...

EH?

THAT'S WHY... I WANT TO THANK YOU!

JUST YOUR APPEARANCE... I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND YOU... BUT THIS TIME I THINK I SUCCEEDED...

ALTHOUGH I DON'T HAVE A COPY... JUST CALL IT INSTINCT. I COULDN'T DRAW YOUR FACE...

THAT GAVE ME CONFIDENCE, MADE ME WANT TO BECOME AN ARTIST!

DRAWING THE "TRUE YOU..."

...

DON'T...

DON'T KID AROUND...!

DON'T EVER SHOW THIS DRAWING TO ME AGAIN!!

...

KA... KAORI!

BECAUSE I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION... I WAS THE ONE WHO HURT HER...

WHEN SHE SAW THE PICTURE, SHE FELT AS THOUGH I DISCOVERED EVERYTHING IN HER HEART. THAT'S WHY SHE WAS SO UPSET... SHE APOLOGIZED...

FROM THAT MOMENT, SHE CONCEALED THE SHOCK AND SADNESS OF FINDING OUT SHE WAS ADOPTED FROM EVERYONE... SHE SAID...

IT WASN'T UNTIL GRADUATION... WHEN SHE TOLD ME THE TRUTH...

THE ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE APOLOGIZED... WAS ME...

THAT HER PARENTS... WEREN'T REALLY HER BIOLOGICAL PARENTS...

TRY YOUR BEST!!

YOU WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A GOOD ARTIST!

LOOKING AT YOU, I CAN TELL...

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ONE BIG, HAPPY, FAMILY.

KAORI'S HUSBAND... WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS YOUR FATHER!?

...

...

SHE IS A GOOD PERSON...

REALLY ...

...

NOW, SHE... SHE MUST BE REALLY HAPPY NOW...

SHE PASSED AWAY...

EH...?

SHE... SHE IS... NO LONGER WITH US...

KAORI-MAMA... SHE...

LAST YEAR...

MISTER...

NATSU-ME...?

IT WAS A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT...

SEEING THAT MISTER NATSUME WAS CRYING UNINTENTIONALLY...

BECAUSE HE WAS... ALREADY IN LOVE WITH KAORI-MAMA SINCE THEY MET

AT THAT MOMENT...

SHAN'N FINALLY REALIZED...

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Chapter 92 Is this Love?

KAORI...?
HER...?

YAY!

HA HA!

喫茶
Gallary
ギャラリー

...DEAD?

WHEE!

HA!

MISTER...
NATSUME...

...

SO- I'M SORRY!

I...

I LET YOU TELL ME... MADE YOU STIR SUCH PAINFUL MEMORIES...

SUCH... A PAINFUL EXISTENCE...

I OFFENDED YOU AGAIN... I'M SORRY...

MY INSENS-ITIVITY... JUST LIKE THE TIME I HURT YOUR MOM...

MISTER NATSUME...

FU

FU

YOU'RE CRYING... PLEASE USE THIS TO CLEAN UP...

EH?

WHY... WHY AM I CRYING?

EH, RE-ALLY...

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS

SORRY...

WHOOO

OH... HERE YOU ARE, AH-SHAN

"Bdum"

"Bdum"

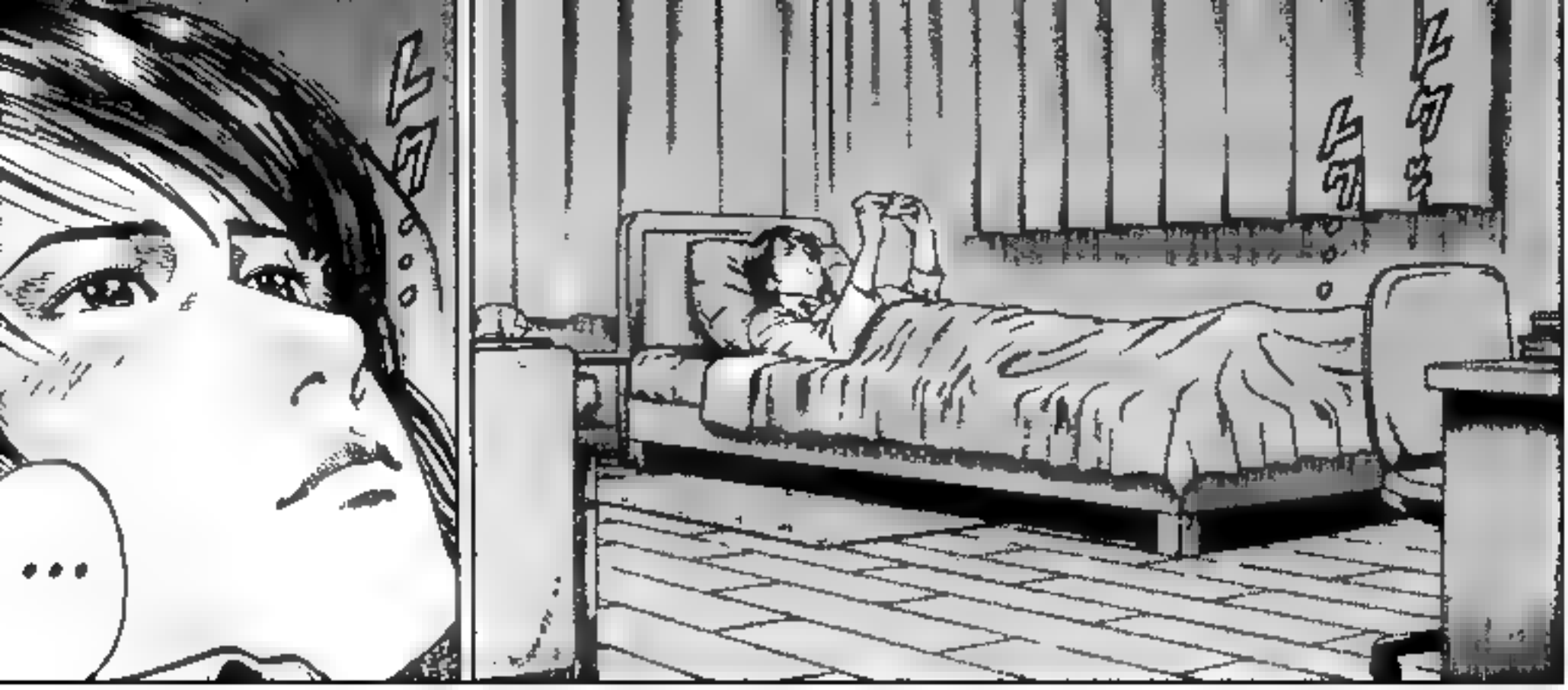
"Bdum"

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY DIDN'T YOU TURN ON THE LIGHTS?

HUH?

NOTHING

...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夏目芳樹
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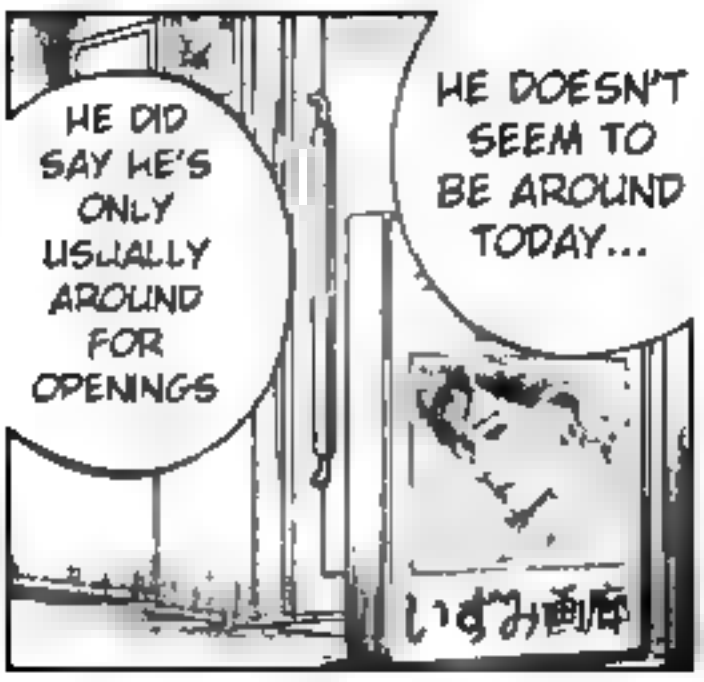
HE DID SAY HE'S ONLY USUALLY AROUND FOR OPENINGS
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AROUND TODAY...
いずみ画廊

ANYWAY, IT ISN'T LIKE WE HAD A SET DATE...

...

...

...

AH-SHAN!

AM I GETTING SICK...? I...

...

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT. WHAT IS IT SO SUDDENLY?

FEELINGS OF... "HEART PAINS...?"

WHEN I THINK ABOUT HIM... MY HEART FEELS LIKE THAT...

...

ONE LOOK AT THIS... THE HANDKER-CHIEF THAT HE USED...

...

...

3°

AM I GETTING SICK? I...

MY FACE FEELS HOT, LIKE I HAVE A FEVER...

WANTING TO SEE HIM AGAIN, THINKING THAT I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...

Bwah ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!

M-MISS SAEKO!?

JUST MAKES ME WANT TO SEE HIM SO MUCH MORE...

SO YOU ARE GROWING UP!

AW, THAT'S GOOD!

SA...!!

I'M HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME FIGURING IT OUT! HOW COULD YOU-

FWAP

THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF SICKNESS, AH-SHAN!

...?

...

WHAT YOU'RE FEELING IS...

ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

...

I'M QUITE SURE! AND VERY RELIEVED. SHE'S GROWING UP INTO QUITE THE LADY.

NO WONDER I FEEL LIKE... SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY...

W-WELL ...

SHANIN...?

SO WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE HER FATHER BUT YOU'RE NOT HAPPY?

...

THANKS FOR WAIT-ING. HERE YOU GO.

...?

...

...OH YEAH...

SMOOTH...

I WAS SO HAPPY, I FORGOT TO ASK!

SO... WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?

BUT... WE CAN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THIS YET.

NO... NOT REALLY.

TURNING ON THE FANS SHOULD BE ENOUGH!

UH, HAYATO... CAN WE TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONING NOW?

HAYATO

COMPLETELY ... UNFLEXIBLE!

...

WHY NOT!? SUMMER'S NOT HERE YET, BUT IT'S SO HOT!

HMPH! AIR CONDITIONING IS ONLY FOR THOSE NOT USED TO HARD WORK!

!!

AH, HOW THOUGHT-FUL OF YOU SHANIN!

ふき ふき

THANKS! I WAS DRENCHED IN SWEAT!

W-WAIT! THAT'S...!

SFX: DOOM!

SFX: WIPE, WIPE

WHAT'S THE MATTER? SH-SHANIN?

HUH?

SHIN...

SHIN-HON!!

NOT IN THE FACE!!

CATSEYE

Wark...

...

AH...

YEAH. TYPHOON 'SHANIN!'

DID YOU GET HIT BY A TYPHOON!?

WH... WHAT HAPPENED?

...

IT WASN'T "THAT" HANDKER-CHIEF!?

YOU DON'T MEAN...

...?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THE SECOND SHIN-HON USED HER HANDKER-CHIEF TO WIPE HIS SWEAT, SHE WENT BERSERK!

AH-SHAN!? YOU'RE KIDDING!

DOES... DOES THIS MEAN...?

...

THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE...

OTHER THAN THAT, YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...

IN LOVE!?

SHANIN, SHE'S...

...

SHIN-
MUNE!

THIS
IS

IS THIS
LOVE...?

...

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TRANSLATOR: KANGXI
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THEN SOONER OR LATER, THE RECIPIENT'S LIFE IS IN GRAVE, MORTAL DANGER!

IF AH-SHAN IS IN LOVE...

IF...

...?

THIS WILL HAPPEN! THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CAFE!

?

?

?

WHAT IF AH-SHAN'S LOVE IS ONE-SIDED, AND THE RECIPIENT DOESN'T RETURN THE FEELINGS?

OR, ESPECIALLY, IF THERE'S A MUTUAL ATTRACTION AND AH-SHAN'S BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF! WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?

?

...

Chapter 93 A Feeling Deeper than Falling in Love

...AH!

AH...!
AH AH!

OH...

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT IT HAPPENED TO SHIN-HON. THAT'S WHY HE'S STILL ALIVE. BUT IF IT WERE A NORMAL GUY...

RIGHT. AH-SHAN WENT COMPLETELY BERSERK OVER JUST A SIMPLE HANDKER-CHIEF...!

...

HOW DARE YOU DUMP ME!?

YIES!

AH!

HOW DARE YOU BETRAY ME!?

...

THAT IS A FATHER'S RESPONSI-BILITY!

HE DOES RAISE QUITE A FUSS...

IT DOES SEEM... VERY DANGER-OUS...

THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER WHAT, THIS MAN MUST BE FOUND AND WARNED!

...

...

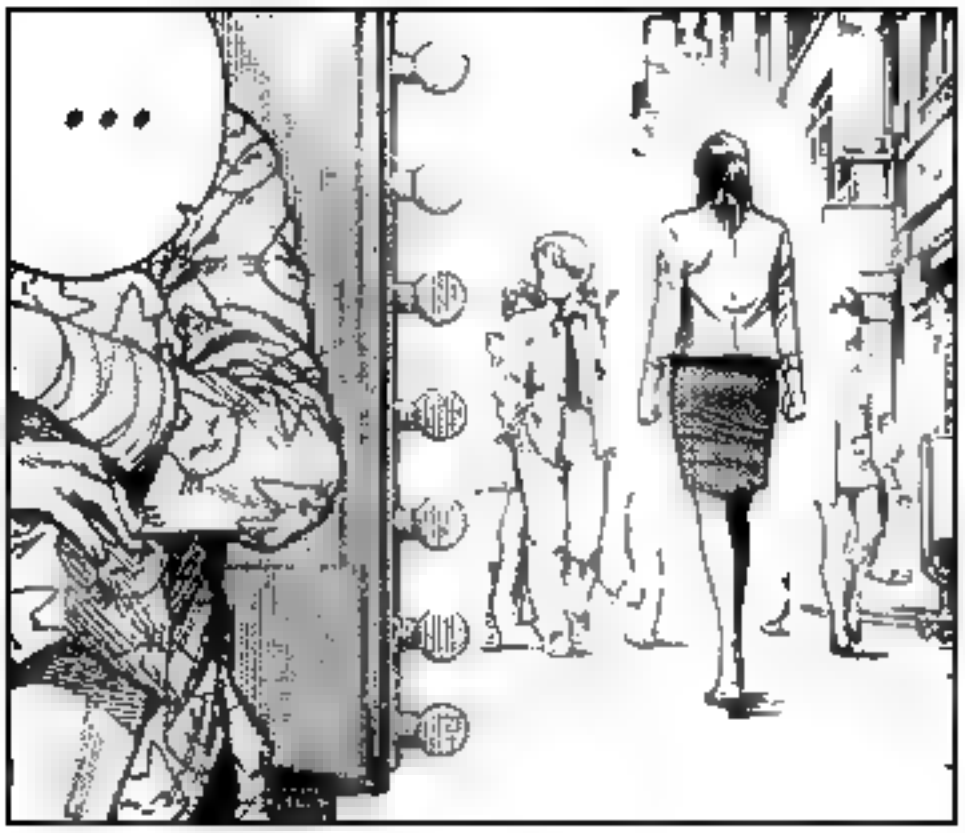
ブルボン

SUPER LOCO

VERY

...

AH!
THAT WAS CLOSE!


...

心もカラ
30分...

BUT... EVEN IF I HAVE TO RISK MY LIFE, I WILL FIND OUT IF SHANIN IS TRULY IN LOVE!

SHIN-
HON...

UH-OH...

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THAT...

OH, I EH... NO, THIS IS...

SHA-
SHANIN!?

SHIN-
HON!!

...

NO, I'M JUST JOGGING! OH, LOOK! IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL!

...EH!

AH, YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN BEFORE YOU CAN TAIL SHANIN, SHIN-HON...

SFX: PANTING

EEK!

GET OUT!

'SCUSE ME!

HEY!

HUP!

HO!

…

夏目芳
個展

…?

…

SFX: SHAKING

I STILL CAN'T DO THIS...!!

芳樹
展

"AN ART GALLERY...? NATSUME YOSHIKI'S... SOLO EXHIBIT?

EH...?

AH, ALL 3 COPIES, TOO! HOW MANY TIMES IS THIS NOW?

...

AH---!! MR NATSUME, THE POSTER'S BEEN STOLEN AGAIN!!

IS HE THE ONE ...?

IF YOU SEE HER, COULD YOU PLEASE BRING HER TO SEE ME?

YOU MEAN THAT GIRL? NO, SHE HASN'T BEEN BY TODAY.

...

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS RIGHT NOW. HAS SHANIN COME BY YET, TODAY?

.....

AH! MR NATSUME! WE WEREN'T FINISHED WITH OUT CONVER-SATION!

AH... YES...

...

AAAAAH!

...

...

...

...

HE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL...

SO... AH-SHAN LIKES OLDER MEN?

BUT HE LOOKS YOUNGER THAN ME

AH...!

WHAT...!?

KAORI...!!

OH, YES!

SO, MR NATSUME ...

THE CON-TRACT MONEY IS...

...?

...

WITH THIS EXPRESSION YOU SHOWED ONLY TO ME, KAORI... THIS EXPRESSION FROM DEEP WITHIN YOUR SOUL...

...I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD... MEET KAORI... IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

...

...

THAT MAN JUST NOW...

BUT I REALLY DO WANT TO SEE HIM... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

GOT TO DECIDE...

夏目芳樹 個展

...

RYO...

RYO-PAPA ...!! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE!?

...KAORI...

RYO...
RYO-PAPA...

HAS HE SEEN KAORI-MAMA'S PORTRAIT...?

RAYO—!!!

IT'S SIMILAR TO MY FEELINGS FOR NATSUME-SAN... BUT...

BUT IT'S MUCH, MUCH DEEPER!

KAORI-MAMA'S FEELINGS FOR PAPA ... IT'S LIKE BEING STABBED IN THE HEART...!

WHAT ...?

ギャルズタリー
天使

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Chapter 94 Father's Love For His Daughter

KAORI-
MAMA...

RYO...
MY RYO...

ピピピ

SFX CELL PHONE

…

YES?

THIS IS CHIEF CHEN.

新東京国際空港

SIGN: NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

IT'S ME. I JUST ARRIVED AT NARITA AIRPORT.

Yes!

TELL ME ABOUT MY DAUGHTER. WHAT IS SHANIN'S SITUATION?

…

SORRY ABOUT THE ADDITIONAL TROUBLE...

PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT'S NOTHING.

AND SHIN-HON'S MEDICAL BILLS...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BILLS FOR THE RES-TAURANT'S REPAIRS.

NOT REALLY...

THAT I'M A SILLY OLD MAN WHO SPOILS HIS DAUGHTER?

DO YOU THINK...

...

COFFEE HOUSE
CAT'S EYE
10:00~18:00

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AH-SHAN...

SHANIN...

WE HAVE A RARE GUEST TODAY...

MR LI!

THIS JUST BRIGHTENS MY DAY...

JUST FINISHED, ACTUALLY. I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG! ARE YOU IN TOWN FOR BUSI-NESS?

IT REALLY IS...

V-VERY...

Gwaa.

UH UH
UH UH
UH UH
UH UH
OHHH!!!

SFX: FAP FAP FAP FAP

MR LI!?

EXCUSE ME!!

TOILET

IF YOU NEED IT, I COULD GET SOME MEDICINE FROM THE STORE

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

...

SFX: COUGH

MR LI: UHHNNN!

SUCH KINDNESS AND GEN-

SUCH...

EROSITY!

...?

THAT'S... NICE...

PLEASE EXCUSE ME. BAD FISH, YOU SEE.

UH UH UH UH UH UH OHH!

...

AH...

EXCUSE ME!!

UMM. PFF!

SFX: FAP FAP FAP FAP

YOU HAVE CHANGED.

R-REALLY ...?

IT SEEMS THAT YOUR MURDEROUS AURA IS GONE... YOU'RE MUCH MORE LADYLIKE NOW.

NOT ONLY THAT...

SFX: POURING COFFEE

H-
HOW...
CAN IT
BE?

THERE SEEMS
TO BE A KIND
OF... MELAN-
CHOLY... IN
THOSE WHO
FALL IN LOVE...

SFX: TING

IN
LOVE...

AM...

I...

...BUT...

LET'S JUST SAY I'M AN OLD BUSY-BODY.

SHARING YOUR PROBLEMS WITH A RELATIVE STRANGER IS EASIER THAT TALKING TO YOUR ACTUAL RELATIVES, IF I MAY...

SHALL WE FIND A PRIVATE PLACE TO TALK?

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN RYO-PAPA SO... VULNERABLE...

SEEING KAORI'S FIRST LOVE'S DRAWING... KAORI'S POR-TRAIT...

SAEBA WAS CRY-ING!?

I WAS STANDING NEARBY, BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME...

KAORI-MAMA'S HEART FELT LIKE IT WANTED TO JUMP OUT OF MY CHEST...

AFTER SEEING RYO-PAPA'S TEARS...

BUT...

SFX: SIGH

...

THAT PAINFUL LONGING MAMA HAS FOR PAPA, IT'S JUST LIKE THE FEELING I HAD WHEN I WAS THINKING ABOUT HIM. THAT'S HOW I KNEW I WAS IN LOVE...

MAYBE IT IS JUST A CHILDISH FLING...

MY LOVE IS HARDLY COMPARABLE TO THEIRS...

KAORI-MAMA'S LONGING FOR PAPA IS MUCH DEEPER AND MORE INTENSE THAN MY OWN...

...

?..

MR LI: PFF

BUT...?

YOUR LOVE IS TRULY MOVING, BUT...

NO, NO ...

AH! YOU'RE LAUGHING AT ME! YOU MUST THINK THE SAME THING!

LOVE'S...

TOTAL-ITY...?

SAEBA'S AND KAORI'S FEEL-INGS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED AT LOVE'S TOTALITY...

DON'T UNDER-STAND!!

AH! I REALLY

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TRUE LOVE!

EVEN MY CONFIDENCE IS GONE...

THIS WHOLE WORLD IS FULL OF THINGS I CAN'T UN-DERSTAND...

NO NEED TO RUSH... SOME-DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...

SLOW AND STEADY... SLOW AND STEADY...

ｽﾔｽﾔ...

ｽﾔ

BUT... SAEBA LOST THAT LOVE. ALL THOSE FEELINGS WITH NOWHERE TO GO...

YOU ARE GROWING UP SO FAST... BEING YOUR FATHER, I CAN ONLY HAVE THIS LITTLE BIT...

MY DAUGHTER... WHEN YOU ARE JUST GETTING READY TO TAKE THAT FIRST STEP TO BECOME AN ORDINARY GIRL...

THAT FEELING OF LOSS MUST HAVE COME FROM DEEP WITHIN, AND HE WAS UNABLE TO CONTAIN IT...

FEELING... OF LOSS...?

HE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY NOTICED KAORI'S PORTRAIT, AND THAT MADE THE PAIN UNBEARABLE AND MADE HIS FEELINGS FLOW OUT...

...MR LI...?

...

HIS TEARS ARE JUST LIKE RYO-PAPA'S...

FEELING OF LOSS...

I UNWILLINGLY THOUGHT BACK TOO MUCH...

AI YA! I CAN'T!

IT MUST BE... BECAUSE OF ALL THE LOVED ONES THAT HAVE GONE TO THE OTHER SIDE THAT CAUSED THE TEARS... I THINK THAT'S IT...

...

THE ELDERLY JUST CAN'T HOLD BACK THE TEARS, CAN WE...?

MR LI MUST HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT HIS DEPARTED BROTHER, THAT'S WHY... NO... NOT JUST THAT...

REALLY... WHAT A PAIR OF SILLY FATHERS...

THAT'S SIMPLY A SILLY FATHER'S STUPID BEHAVIOR...

I HEARD FROM OLD MAN CHEN THAT YOU FLEW YOUR PRIVATE PLANE IN FROM TAIWAN. WHY?

HA HA HA!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT CRAP COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO JUST FOUND AND BECAME A SILLY FATHER TO MY DAUGHTER!

IT IS ALSO GOOD, IF SHANIN HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A GOOD MAN...

BUT...

...

THAT MAN WAS ABLE TO SEE THE TRUE FEELING BEHIND KAORI'S SMILE... AH-SHAN HAS GOOD TASTE.

...

HEY! HEY!! YOU AREN'T THINKING ABOUT HAVING THE *GEN BU** DO AN INVESTIGATION ON HIM AND THEN SNUFFING HIM OUT IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT WITH SHANIN, ARE YOU!?

*GEN BU: BLACK TORTOISE

...DON'T WORRY...

MR LI... YOU MUST BE IN AGONY...

LIKEWISE TO YOU...

REALLY...

...

ドン

3°
3°
3°

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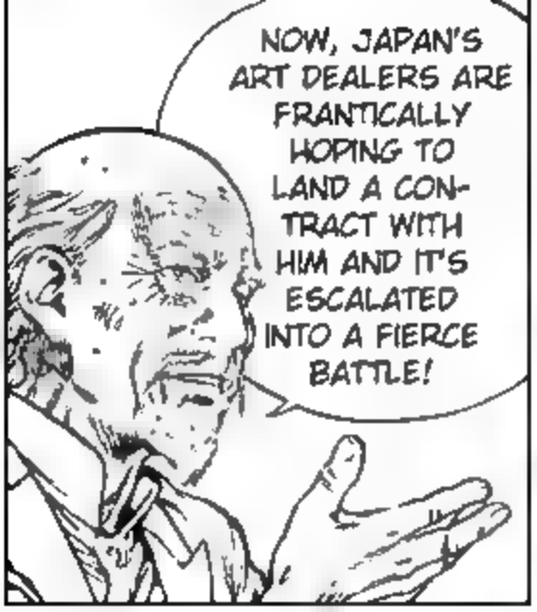
Chapter 95 I am in Love

SE-
CRET-
LY!
MEET
WITH
HIM!!
TODAY
MUST...
SFX HEART BEATS
!!

ドクン
SFX: HEARTBEATS
ドクン
SFX: HEARTBEATS
THAT NATSUME YOSHIKI GUY...
IS FAMOUS ABROAD!
OH...
COME ON! ISN'T HE, LIKE, 30 YEARS OLD?
WHILE HE ISN'T TOO WELL-KNOWN IN JAPAN, HIS WORKS HAVE CIRCLED PARIS AND WON HIM HIGH ACCLAIM. HE'S A YOUNG, UPCOMING ARTIST WHO ONE SHOULD KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON.
YOUNG...?
...
SFX: GRAB!


NOW, JAPAN'S ART DEALERS ARE FRANTICALLY HOPING TO LAND A CONTRACT WITH HIM AND IT'S ESCALATED INTO A FIERCE BATTLE!

ONE MIGHT SAY THIS EXHIBIT MARKS HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN, SO SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
IT HURTS!
WHEN HE WAS 15, HE WENT OFF TO FRANCE. THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME BACK IN THE COUNTRY.

...

えーっ!

...
...
SHE'S BEEN STARING AT YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.
AH... DO YOU KNOW THAT GIRL?
SFX: GULP!
SHANIN!!

すみ画廊

...
SHANIN!? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

Y-YEAH...

IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE GIRL IN THE PORTRAIT?
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT GIRL...

?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!

OH...
I'M SORRY BUT I HAVE TO LOOK FOR HER!
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE CONTRACT LATER!

WERE THE EYES OF A WOMAN IN LOVE!
THAT GIRL'S EYES...

QUIT KIDDING AROUND!
JEEZ!
Gallary
...
EVEN WITH NO PUBLICITY, THE ART EXHIBIT IS ALREADY SUCH A SUCCESS.
HE WILL SURELY BECOME A PROMISING ARTIST!
NATSUME'S GENTLE-STYLE WORK WILL SURELY CATCH ON IN JAPAN.
THINK ABOUT HIS AGE! THAT GUY WILL ONLY EVER SEE SHANIN AS A CHILD!!
YEAH!! THAT'S RIGHT!!
IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL, ISN'T IT...!? MR LI...!?
WHAT WITH BEING AN ORDINARY CIVILIAN AND ALL!
HE MAY BE THE IDEAL MAN TO BRING SHANIN HAPPINESS.
!!

IT IS... AS YOU SAY...
ALSO, WHEN THE EXHIBIT'S OVER, ISN'T THAT GUY GOING BACK TO FRANCE?
WITHOUT SEEING EACH OTHER, SHANIN'S ENTHUSIASM WILL COOL OFF! IT'S JUST LIKE A HOT FEVER!

WILL YOU ... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!?
A JAPANESE WEDDING CEREMONY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, TOO!
あらだ
こくだ
WE SHOULD GO WITH A CHINESE WEDDING CEREMONY!

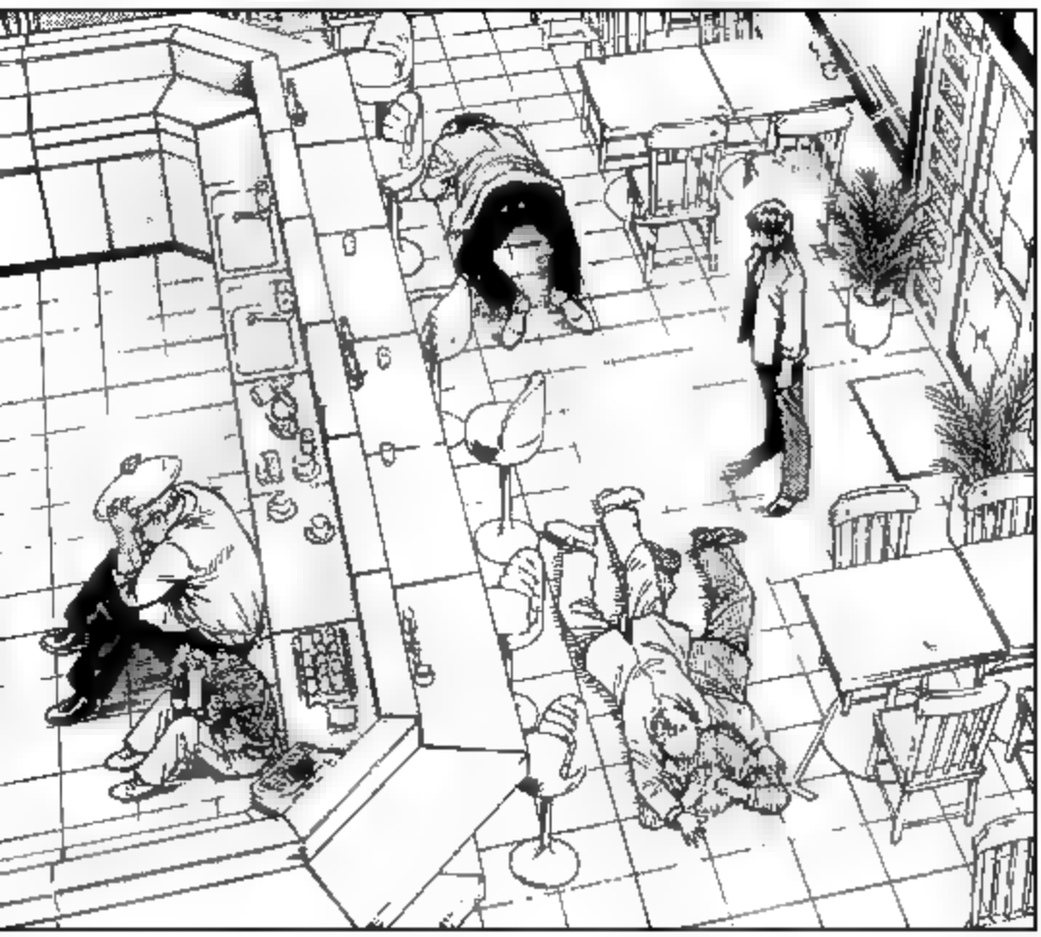
SFX: BLAH BLAH BLAH, THIS AND THAT THAT AND THIS.

SFX: SEETHING GROWL

SFX: SLAM! CLANG!

SFX: GLASS BREAKING

EVERYONE HIT THE DECK!!
DAN-GER!!



SFX: THUMP!

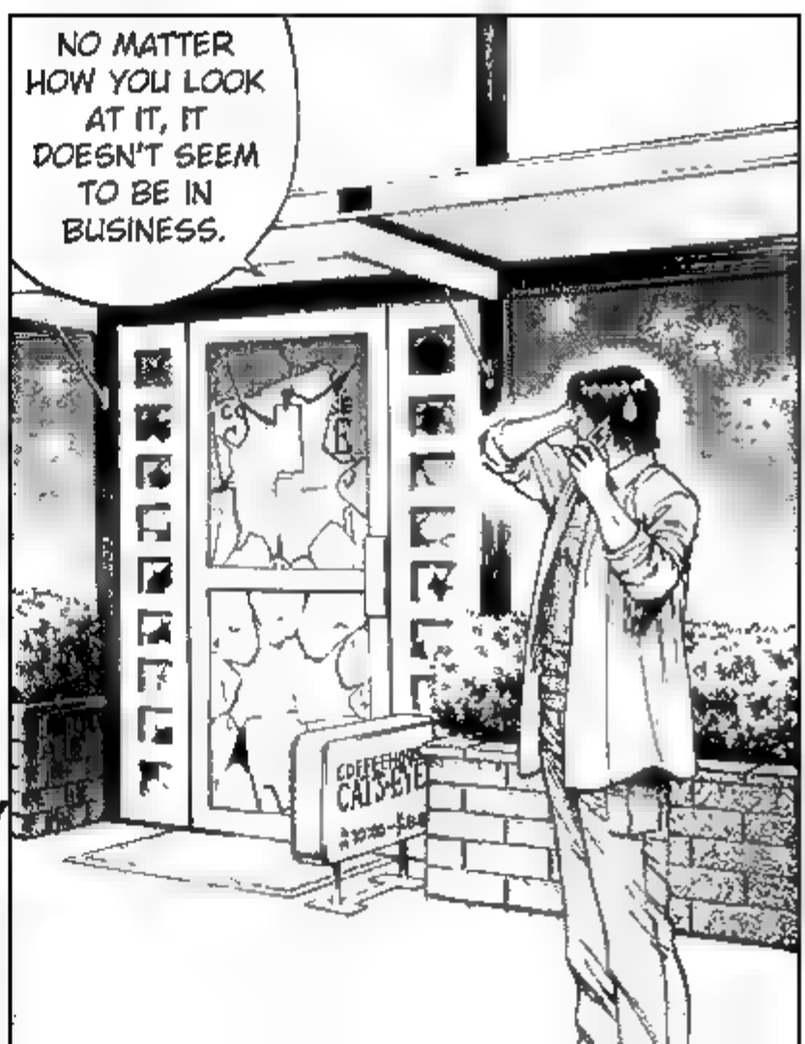
W-WHAT'S WRONG, AH-SHAN?
IT'S NO-THING!

...?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?
HIT THE DECK!
MAYBE NATSUME ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND?
SFX. GRAB!
Sigh
Incoming call: Natsume Yoshiki
SFX. CELL PHONE BEEPING

SFX. SWUP!

SFX. GASP!



NATSU-
ME!!!
WHA. .
WHAT
HAP-
PENED?
SO...
WHY DID
WE HAVE
TO RUN?
HA!
HA
HA!
...
WA-
HA!
AH
HA
HA!

3 DAYS...
YOU DIDN'T COME... TO THE EXHIBIT...

BECAUSE I'M ANGRY!
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?

HA HA!
AH HA!

THAT WOMAN YOU WERE TALKING TO EARLIER... WHO IS SHE!?
HUH? AH!

IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TWO WERE HAVING AN ENJOY-ABLE CON VERSATION!
YOU MEAN MISS IZUMI? SHE'S THE OWNER OF THE GALLERY WHY DO YOU ASK?

I... WHY DID I GET SO ANGRY...?
AH, SHANIN ...

I WANTED TO MEET YOU, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE! IT PAINS MY HEART EVEN MORE! WHY IS THIS!?
BUT BECAUSE I WAS SO SHY, I WAS UNABLE TO GET INSIDE! WHY!?
WANTING TO SEE YOU, NATSUME, I HAD TO GO TO THE ART GALLERY EVERY DAY!
EVERY DAY...

WHY DOES IT...
ALWAYS HURT SO MUCH!?

HUH? OH... YEAH!
NATSUME... ARE YOU THINKING THE SAME THING?

SAID... IT WAS BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE...
EVERYONE ...

AND NOW I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, NATSUME.

...

BUT THESE ARE JUST MY FEELINGS ...
SHANIN...

I JUST... WANTED TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS...
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE MY LOVE ON YOU...

...
MR NATSUME IS AN ADULT... YOU MUST THINK I'M STILL JUST A CHILD... AFTER SEEING YOU TALK TO YOUR BOSS LADY, I WAS THINKING...
THAT WAS HOW A MATURE PERSON LOOKS AT OTHERS... WHICH IS NOT THE CASE WITH ME...

THAT IS ALL!
AH...!
...
少女の肖像
IS IT...
LOVE...?

HOW COME... SHE'S SO MUCH LIKE YOU...?
WHY IS IT... THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU AND SHANIN AREN'T BLOOD-RELATIVES...
WHAT'S WRONG... WITH ME NOW...?
KAORI... IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME...?
NOW IT SEEMS LIKE... THIS HEART HAS TAKEN ME BACK TO THAT TIME IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL...
WANTING TO MEET HER...
I ALSO...
HOPING THAT SHANIN WILL SHOW UP...
I'VE ALSO COME HERE EVERY DAY...

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Chapter 96 Distant Promise

YOU'RE DELAYING YOUR RE-TURN TO PARIS!?
いずみ画廊
夏目芳樹 最終日
THAT'S GREAT! AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISH-ED TALKING ABOUT THE CONTRACTS YET!
IS IT BECAUSE YOU INTEND TO SIGN ON WITH US!?
THEN... WHY?
I WANT TO THINK...
NO...
ORGAN-IZE MY THOUGHTS ...

...?
...
...
TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF THE EXHIBIT... ISN'T IT?

...
IS IT ALRIGHT NOT TO GO?
YOU HAVEN'T GONE THESE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS... IS IT OKAY? ONCE THE EXHIBIT ENDS, HE MIGHT GO BACK TO PARIS.

I'M JUST A CHILD, NOT WORTHY TO BE ANOTHER'S LOVE. I ALREADY KNOW HIS ANSWER.

...

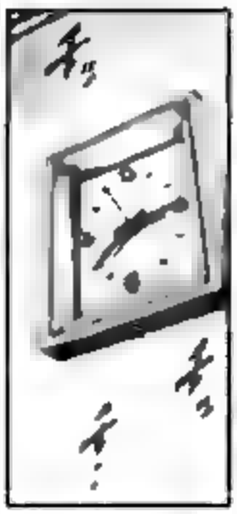
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO SEE HIM?
I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER, THAT'S WHY...

REALLY... THAT'S SO LIKE KAORI! ALWAYS JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS SO QUICKLY!

I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM NATSUME HIMSELF...

YOU AND KAORI... HUH!
...?
!!
Message: Natsume Yoshiki
あたふた
SFX: CELL PHONE RING
SFX: PFF!
...
NATSUME ...

Today is the closing ceremony of the exhibit
When the staff afterparty ends, I'll be staying at the Gallery
Can you meet me at 8 o'clock?
I'll wait for you. Natsume
...


チラ
チラ
チ…

...

WHY DID YOU...

WHEN WILL YOU BE GOING BACK TO PARIS?
HA HA!
YEAH!
...
...REALLY?
TOMOR-ROW...
THEN
LET'S MEET UP AGAIN, WHEN THE TIME COMES!
THAT'S IT...
卒業式

SAME TO YOU...! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
DON'T FORGET!

THAT DAY...

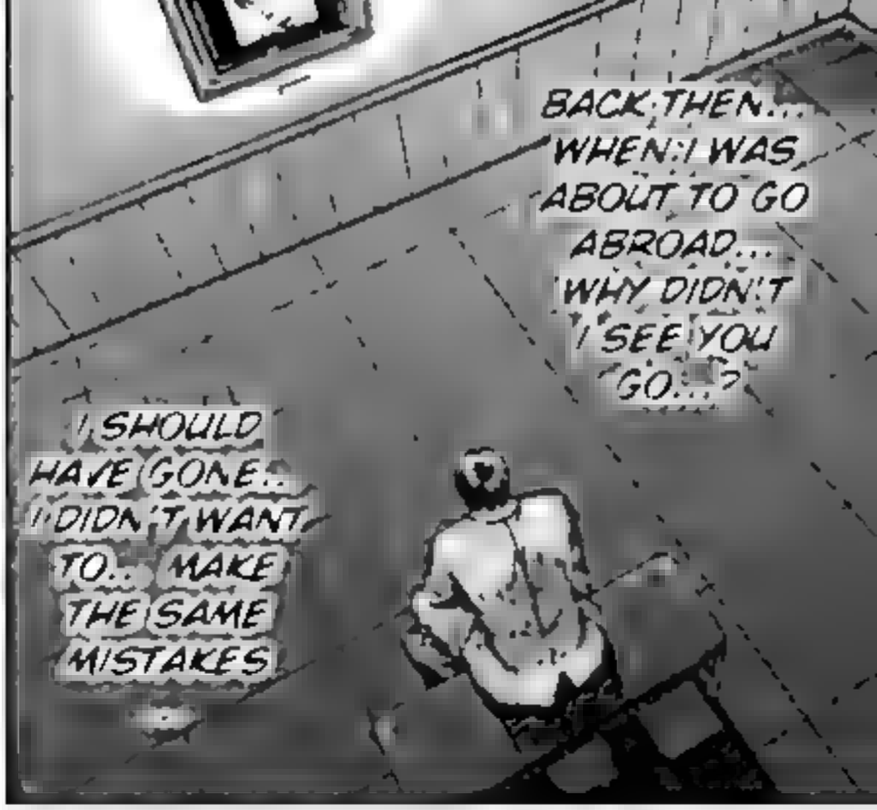
WILL BE THE DAY YOU INVITED ME TO SHOW ME THE DRAWING ...

...!
BUT... WHEN I LEARNED THAT NATSUME JUST TREATED ME LIKE A MODEL
IT DIDN'T LIVE UP TO MY EXPECTATIONS! HOW DISAPPOINTING!

I WOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED WHATEVER LITTLE THINGS MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED...

KA-KAORI!
GOOD-BYE!
W-WAIT!
DO YOUR BEST!
YOU WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A GREAT ARTIST!
...
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY...
JUST SAYING THE THINGS YOU WANTED TO SAY, THEN...
THE TWO OF YOU REALLY ARE QUITE ALIKE...
...

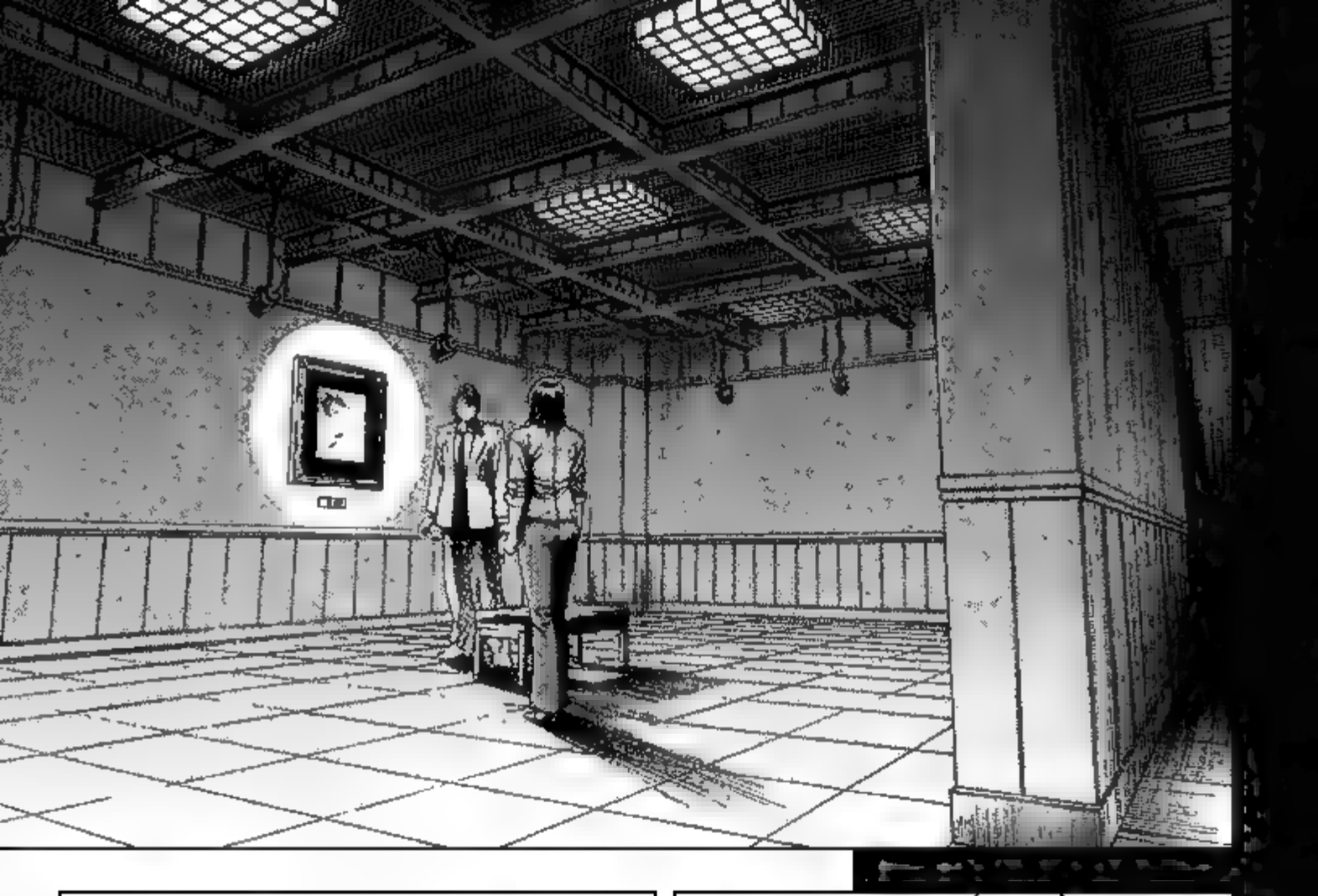
AND THEN...


BACK THEN... WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GO ABROAD... WHY DIDN'T I SEE YOU GO...?
I SHOULD HAVE GONE.. I DIDN'T WANT TO.. MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES

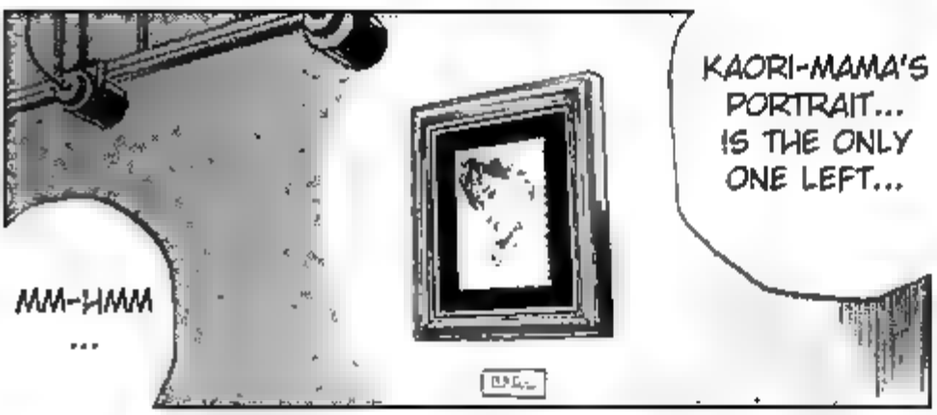
I WANT TO FULFILL THE PROMISE I MADE TO YOU...

PROMISE?

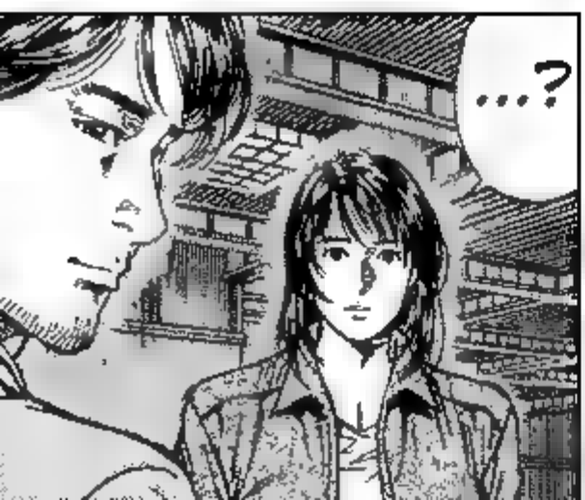
SHANIN...!
SHAN-



AH, TODAY-
THAT, I...


KAORI-MAMA'S PORTRAIT... IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT...
MM-HMM ...

...


...?

THAT WAS... LEFT FOR YOU...

YAY!
HA HA!
BACK THEN... WITH KAORI... THIS IS A PROMISE TO YOUR MOTHER...
卒業式
AH HA HA!
YOUR PARENTS AREN'T YOUR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS!?
I HOPE... YOU WILL ACCEPT IT ...

...
WHEN YOU SHOWED ME THAT PORTRAIT, IT'S LIKE YOU EXPOSED MY SOUL... THAT'S WHY I GOT ANGRY. I'M SORRY...
WEE!
AH HA!
YEAH!

ARE YOU STILL KEEPING THE PORTRAIT?
I-I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW...

PLEASE GIVE THAT PORTRAIT TO ME... I'M SURE I CAN SMILE LOOKING AT IT! I WILL DEFINITELY GET BACK THAT PORTRAIT!
WHEN THE TIME COMES... EVEN IF I'M NOT SURE WHEN THAT DAY COMES...
CAN YOU... HELP ME KEEP IT?
EH...?
...?
I UNDER-STAND! ALRIGHT!
EVEN IF... I HAVE TO GO TO FRANCE
...
SO... WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE GOING TO PARIS...?
IT'S A DEAL!

IF SHE WERE ALIVE TODAY, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS PORTRAIT WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE... THAT'S WHY...
...

BUT NOW... SHE HAS HER OWN TRUE RELATIVES...
EVEN IF IT'S TOO LATE TO GIVE IT TO KAORI...

ハッ!

SHANIN... I HOPE YOU CAN ACCEPT THIS PORTRAIT IN KAORI'S PLACE!

...SHANIN?
ドクン

ハッ!

...
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
SHANIN...?
Thank you...

You still remember... Natsume...
...

OR WAS IT JUST MY DESIRE TO SEE IT? MY IMAGINATION?
KAORI'S SMILING FACE...
THAT... THAT WAS...
KAORI-MAMA IS REALLY HAPPY... SHE IS LOOKING AT THE PORTRAIT WITH A SMILE ...
NO...
KAORI-MAMA'S TRANSPLANTED HEART LIVES INSIDE MY BODY...
THAT'S WHY I KNOW... KAORI-MAMA IS SMILING...
KAORI-MAMA IS INSIDE MY HEART...
MY HEART IS KAORI-MAMA'S HEART...

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KAORI... SHE'S...
INSIDE... OF YOUR BODY...!?
ALIVE INSIDE OF ME...
YES... INSIDE MY HEART...

Chapter 97 Smiling Face of Happiness

...AH...
AH AH ...!
...KAORI...
KAORI...

Bdum
Bdum
Bdum
Bdum
Bdum

I HAD SOMETHING TO TELL YOU TODAY...
Bdum
...SHA-NIN...
I WANT TO TELL YOU .. MY ANSWER
THAT TIME IN THE PARK... WHEN YOU CONFESSED YOUR FEELINGS TO ME...
SHANIN... I...
I...
THAT'S WHY...
I WANT-ED... TO MEET WITH YOU ..

I WILL BE RETURN-ING TO FRANCE...!
...TO-MOR-OW...
"Bdum"

...

...
MISS IZUMI... THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITAL-ITY
いずみ画廊
EH... TAKE CARE!
いずみ画廊
I...
I WON'T GIVE UP!
I'LL SOON FOLLOW YOU TO PARIS AND I'LL FORCE YOU TO SIGN THAT CONTRACT!
いずみ画廊
...
HA HA HA!
WAH HA!!

HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
YAY!
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, NATSUME...
...
...

SFX: THUMP

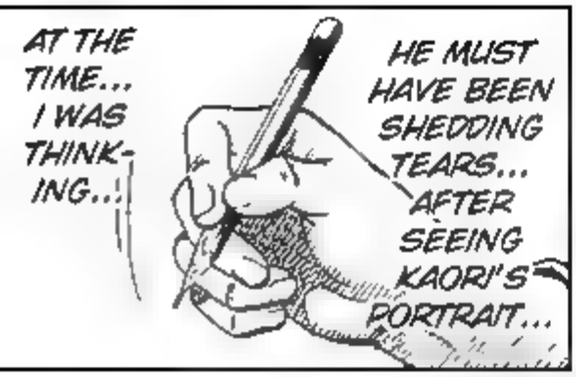
HEARD IT FROM MY DAUGHTER. YOU'RE THAT PORTRAIT ARTIST, RIGHT?

!?
CAN YOU PLEASE DRAW MY PORTRAIT?

...

UH...?

THIS PERSON IS...!!


AT THE TIME... I WAS THINK-ING..!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN SHEDDING TEARS... AFTER SEEING KAORI'S PORTRAIT...

BETTER START DRAWING, OR YOU'LL MISS YOUR FLIGHT.
UH...!?
AH... YES!

THIS PERSON IS...!!
IT'S POS-SIBLE THAT HE'IS...

HE'S FROM THAT DAY!...
THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT...!

CAN YOU NOT DRAW SHANIN'S FACIAL EXPRESSIONS?
I'M RYO SAEBA.
AND YOU ARE AN AMAZING ARTIST.
AH... YOU ARE...
YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING
...YES...
YOU SAID YOU SAW TWO SOULS WITH AN INTANGIBLE FEELING... WHY IS THAT?
...

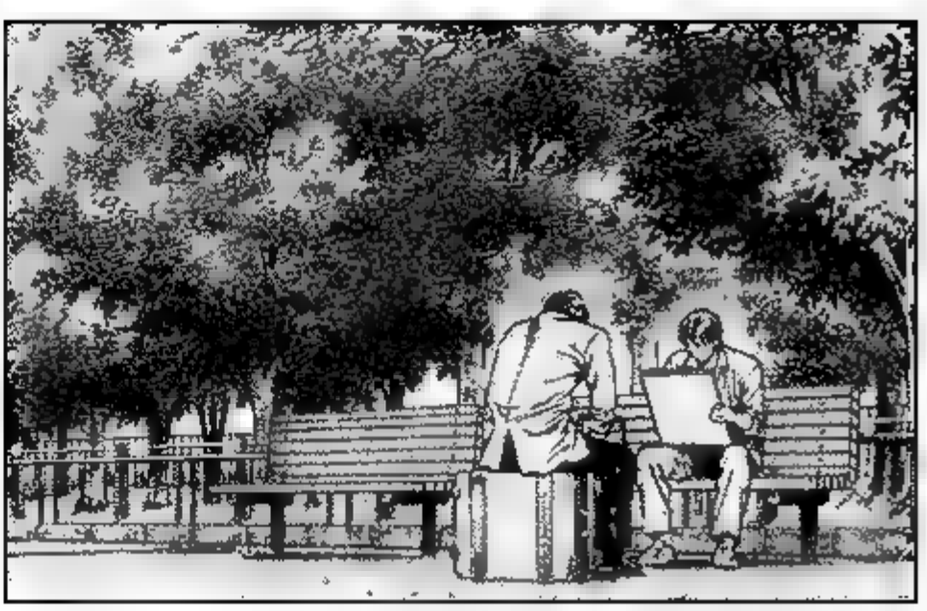
LAST NIGHT ...
THERE ARE TWO HEARTS... SHANIN'S EXPRESSION MADE ME UNSURE, THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T DRAW IT...
KAORI'S HEART LIVES INSIDE HER HEART...
I UNDERSTOOD THE REASON WHY I CAN'T DRAW... AFTER SEEING SHANIN LAST NIGHT
...
WHEE!
HA HA HA!
AH HA!

...
INSIDE SHANIN'S BODY...
BUT... THIS IS ALSO PROBABLY CAUSED BY KAORI'S HEART...
I...
SFX: SKRITCH
INFLUENCED BY KAORI'S FEELINGS, AND PROBABLY MISTAKING KAORI'S CHERISHED MEMORIES OF ME FOR FEELINGS OF ADMIRATION...
SHANIN'S THE SAME...
AM ALSO ATTRACTED TO SHANIN...
BUT WE CAN'T JUST SAY THIS BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS...
I HAVE ALSO THOUGHT OF THIS...
BUT...
I'M ALSO CONFUSED...

I FEEL THAT, WHETHER IT'S SHAUN OR ME, WE BOTH NEED MORE TIME...
THAT'S WHY... I'VE DECIDED TO RETURN TO PARIS...
...
...RIGHT
HA HA
I'M GLAD...
BEING ABLE TO MEET YOU...
H?

I CAN ONLY HOPE ...
MAYBE...
BEING ABLE TO MEET YOU, I'M SURE SHE HAS FOUND HAPPINESS.
THE SAME GOES FOR KAORI...
...
AND BE-CAUSE YOU WERE ABLE TO MEET SHANIN...
BE-CAUSE OF YOU...
T...
LAST NIGHT, SHE WAS ABLE TO LOOK AT MY DRAWINGS AND SMILE!

BEING ABLE TO MEET HER AGAIN WITH A HAPPY SMILE ON HER FACE, I'M GLAD. REALLY...
THAT, NOW, IS KAORI'S SMILING FACE...
...
SFX: PFF!



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HA
HA
HA
Chapter 98 Tearful Farewell to Your First Love
HA
HA
AirFrance flight 275 to Paris France will be departing at 12 00
Last call for processing of travel documents is now over
HA
HA
HA

SOUTH WING DEPARTURES
12:00 PARIS
12:50 HONG KONG
SFX: CLACK CLACK CLACK
SFX: TURBINE SPEEDING UP
SFX: RATTLING
SFX: JETS ROAR
NATSU-
ME!!!

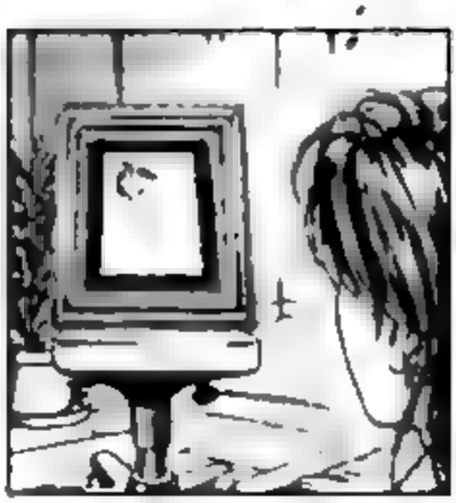
HA
HA
ONE LAST TIME...
HA
AT THE VERY LEAST, LET ME SEE YOU...
I DECIDED NOT TO REGRET THIS... IF I HAD KNOWN...
I SHOULD HAVE DECIDED EARLIER...
EVEN ONE LOOK WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE...

...
DREAM...
WHEN NATSUME WAS GOING TO PARIS... MAMA HAD GONE TO SAY GOOD-BYE...
THAT DREAM WAS. KAORI-MAMA'S ...!

REGRET...

DECIDED NOT TO REGRET... AT THE VERY LEAST...
A LOOK WOULD BE FINE ...

...

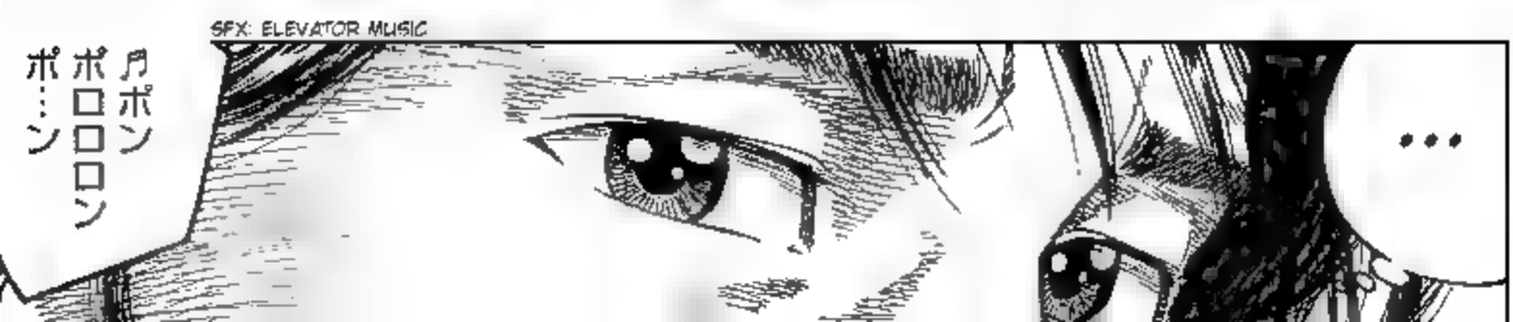


着信
Calling
Ryo-Papa
!!
SFX. CELL PHONE RINGING
HEY...
I...
THIS TIME... YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT...!
NATSUME WILL BE RIDING THAT SERVICE TO THE AIRPORT... DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
IT'S LIKE THIS... THE NUMBER 41 EXPRESS TRAIN FROM SHINJUKU WILL BE ARRIVING AT NARITA IN AROUND 18 HOURS AND 11 MINUTES.

HA...
SFX: BEEP
4 番線 発車時刻
空港 16:11 成田エクスプレス 41 号
...
The departed 18 hour, 11 minute express train will be arriving in Narita shortly

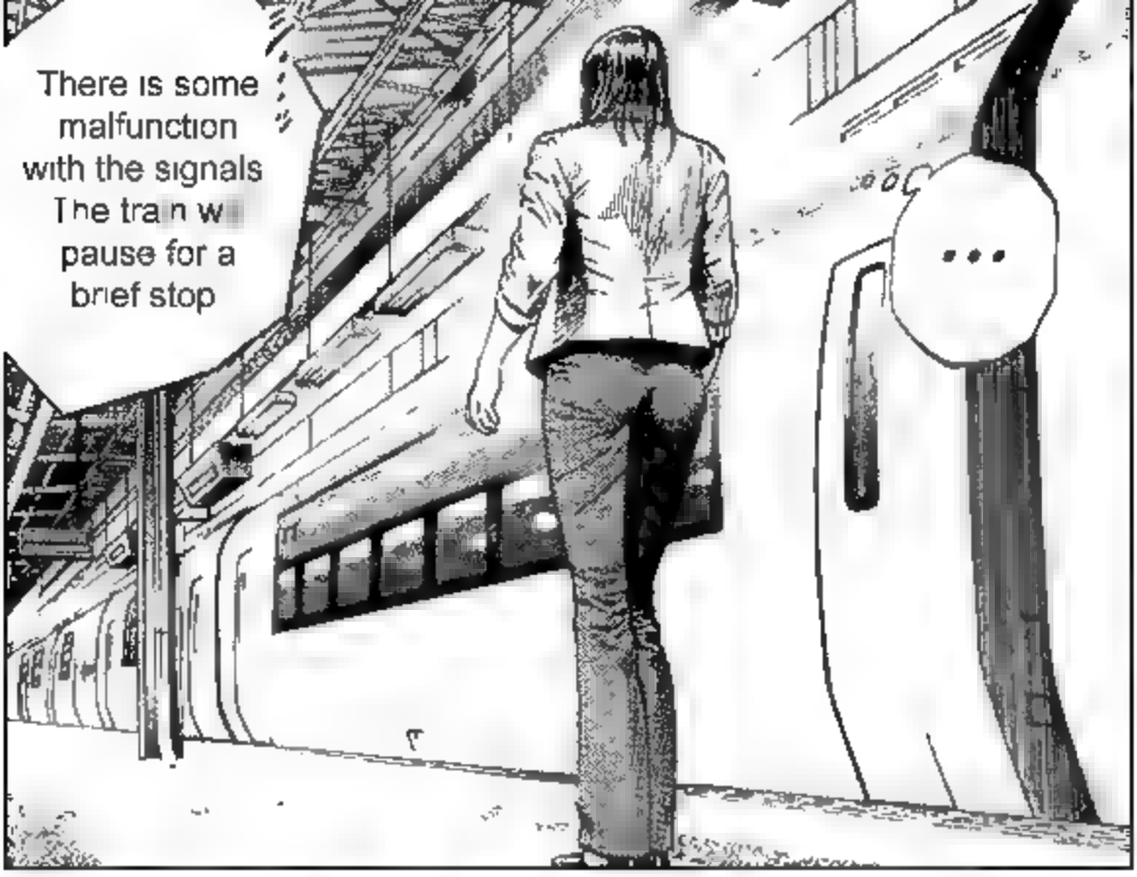
SFX: BING BONG

SFX: ELEVATOR MUSIC

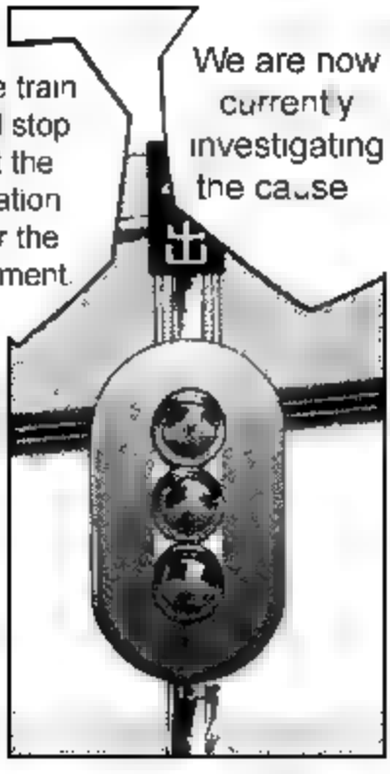


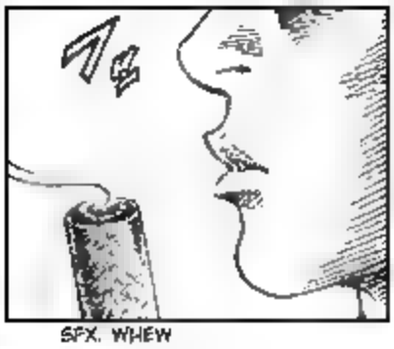
NEX
TO
SFX BING BUNG
!!
NATSUME...
ボンボン
ポロロン
ボ…ン♬
SFX. ELEVATOR MUSIC
SHANIN!?
NAT-
SUME!!

…
成田エクスプレス
名鉄特急
…!
…
NEX
…!
SFX: SCREECHING


There is some malfunction with the signals The train w pause for a brief stop
...

The train wi l stop at the station for the moment.


We are now currently investigating the cause



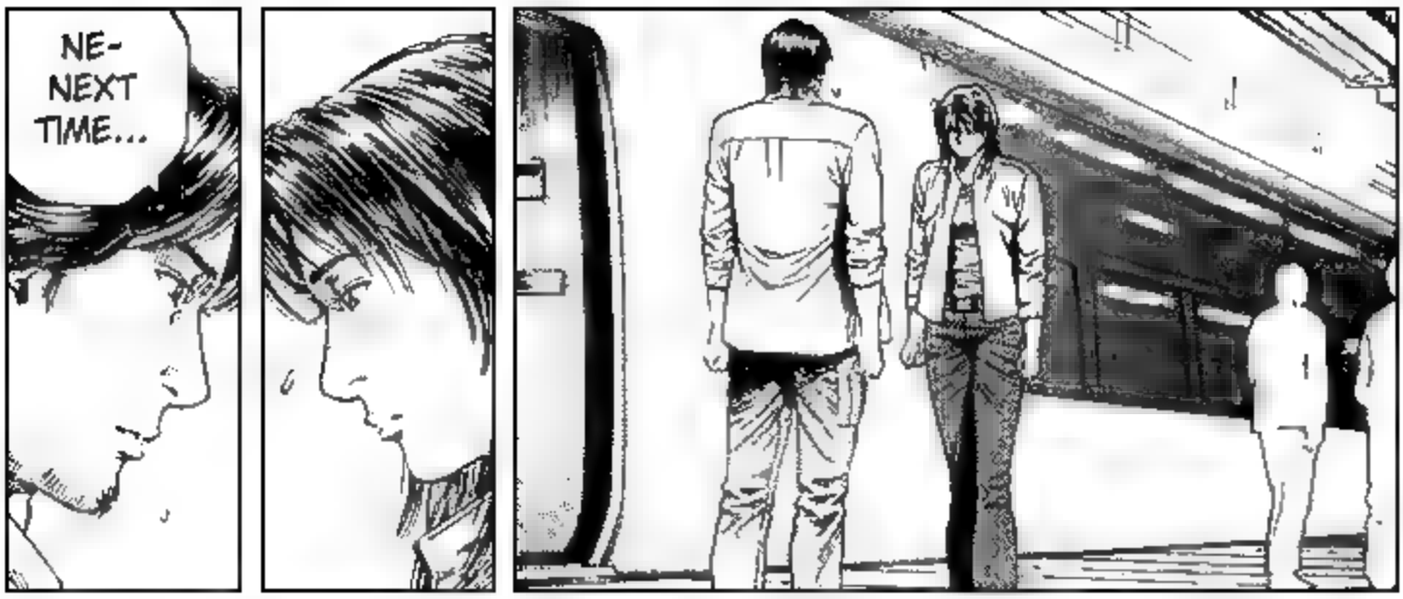
SFX. WHEW

TO

REALLY... WHAT A TROUBLESOME COUPLE...

...
...
NATSUME
...
...
YOU CAME
...
TO SAY
GOODBYE?
...
THA-
THANK
YOU...
...

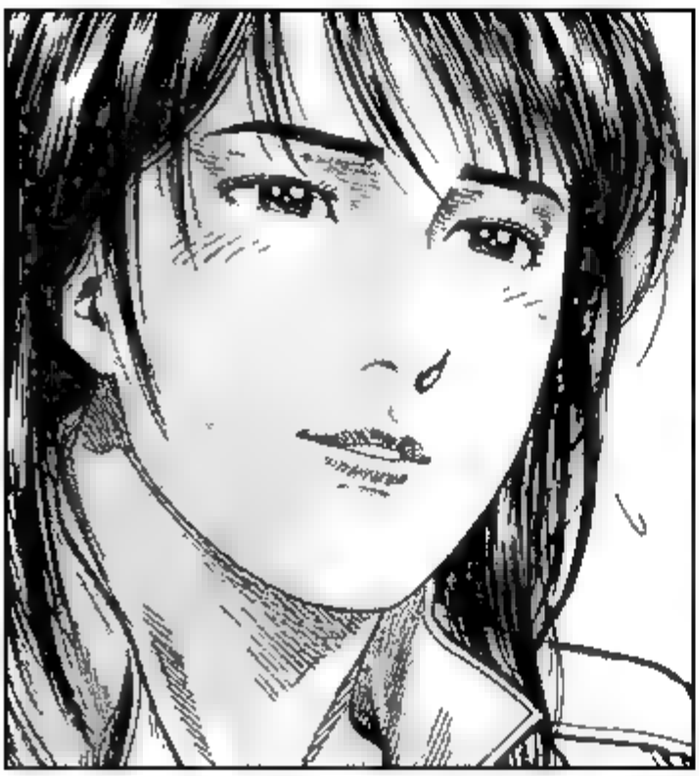
THAT SAME REGRET... THAT'S WHY ...
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE LIKE KAORI-MAMA...


NE- NEXT TIME...

INSIDE YOUR BODY, NOW... YOUR HEART AND KAORI'S ARE INTWINED TOGETHER... THAT'S WHY SEEING YOU NOW... MADE ME UNSURE OF THE EXPRESSION, FOR NOW I CAN'T DRAW YOU...

NEXT TIME WE MEET... I THINK I WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW YOUR LIKENESS...
...?

THIS FEEL-ING I HAVE ...
BY THAT TIME...
YOU, BECOMING THE TRUE SHANIN, WILL ONE DAY COME ...
BUT, THE DIFFERENCE THAT EXISTS BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE, SOONER OR LATER WILL SURELY BE MERGED TO BECOME A SINGLE PERSON...
I WILL SURELY RETURN TO DRAW YOUR LIKENESS!
...IS THAT A PROMISE?

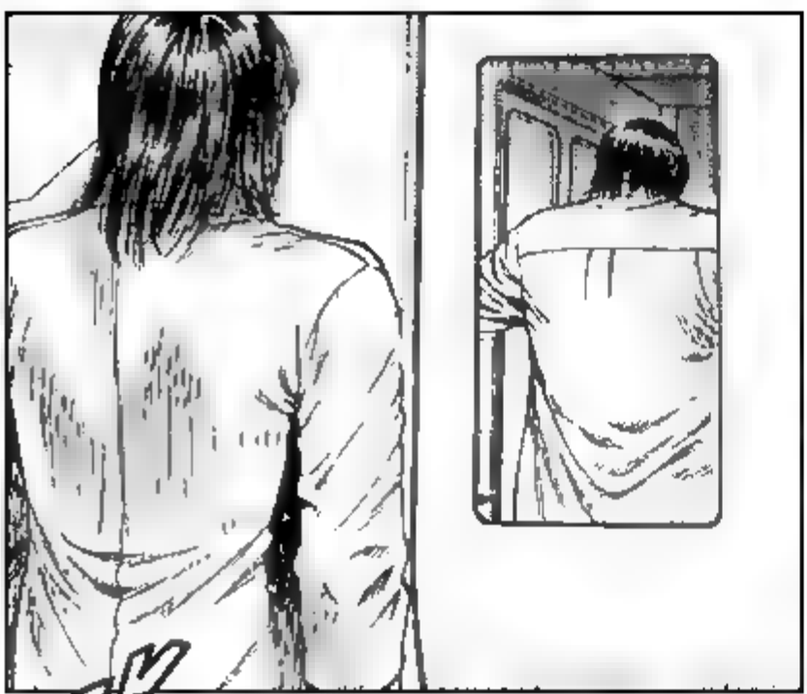


For those passengers in a hurry, we appolog ze for the delay

The s gnal repa rs have been completed

ピンポン
ポロロン
ポン……
SFX: ELEVATOR MUSIC
The train will now start
NEX
ポロロン
ピン……♪
SFX. ELEVATOR MUSIC
TAKE CARE... AND GOODBYE... SHANIN...
...THEN...
...YES...
ALSO...

KAORI...
FAREWELL...



SFX: PU-SHUU

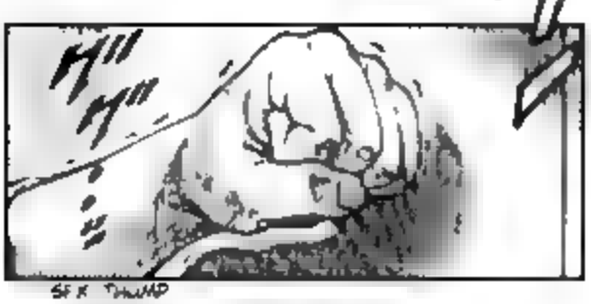
SFX: TRAIN HORN

SFX: TRAIN HORN

SFX TRAIN CLATTERING

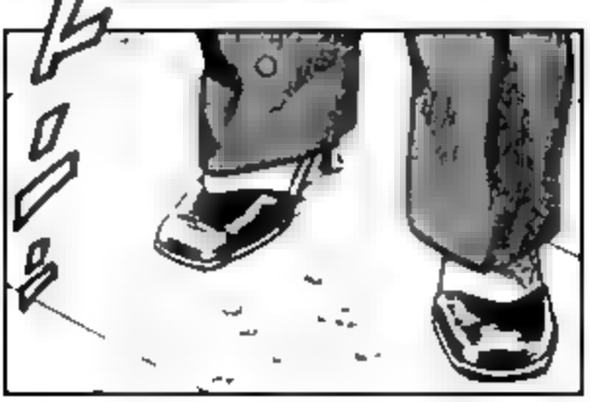
SFX TRAIN CLATTERING

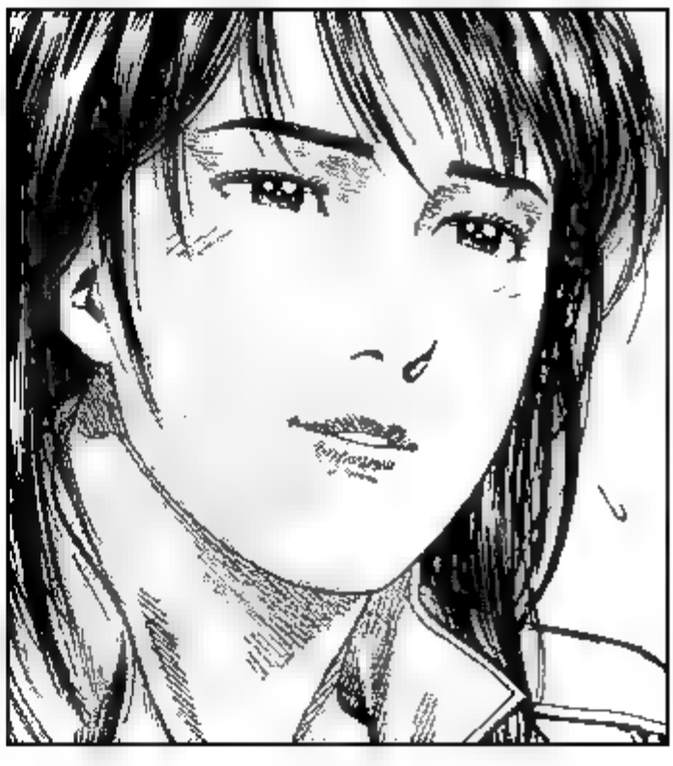
SFX TRAIN CLATTERING



SFX THUMP

SFX TRAIN CLATTERING





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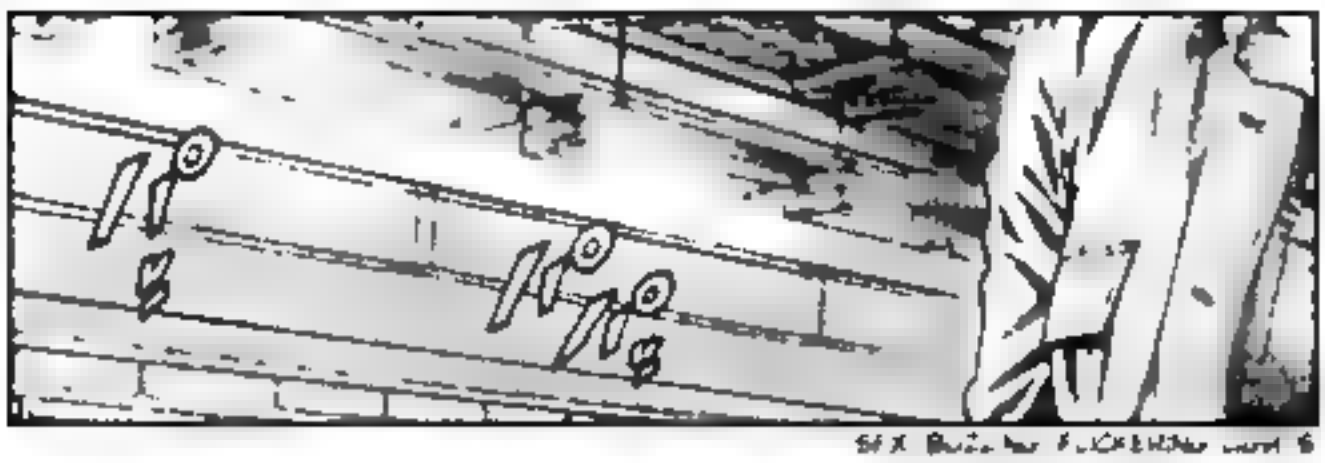
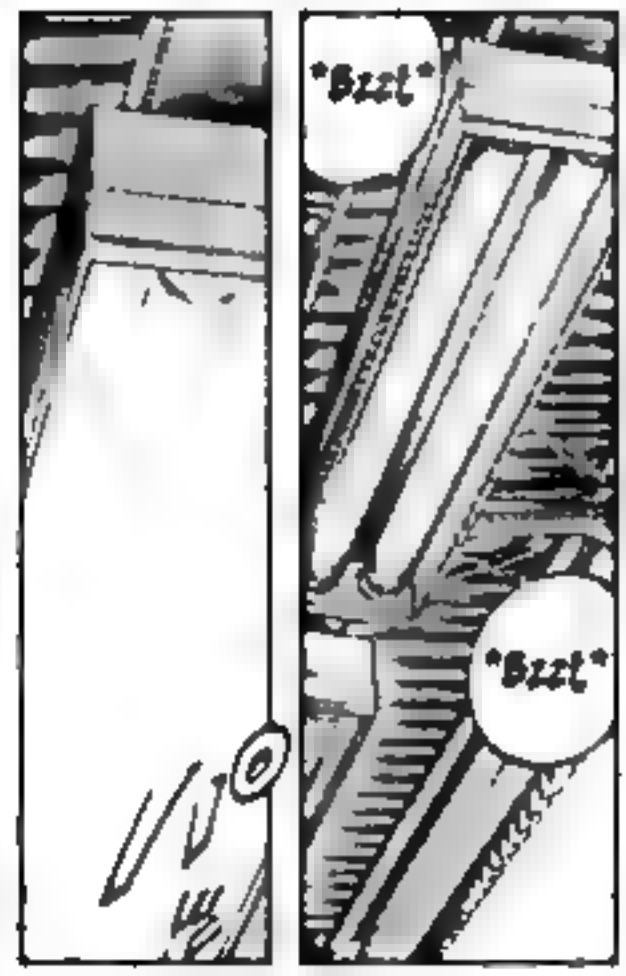
Chapter 99 The Feelings of Those in Love




"Bzzt"
"Bzzt"

...

IS TO USE BOTH OF THESE HANDS TO HOLD YOU...

RIGHT NOW, WHAT I WOULD LIKE ...

...

IF IT'S POSSIBLE ...

ALTHOUGH I HAVE PREPARED MY HEART FOR THIS..

BESIDES WANTING TO PROTECT HER, I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ...

BUT SEEING HER IN SUCH AN IMMESURABLE PAIN... LIKE THIS...

IT REALLY IS GRATIFYING... SEEING MY DAUGHTER GROWING UP EVERY DAY...

...

...

BUT NO... THAT'S YOUR MISSION, SAEBA

AT LEAST ...

HOLDING HER WITH THESE TWO HANDS SHOULD HAVE BEEN...

SEEING MY PITIFUL DAUGHTER SO HELPLESS LIKE THIS... IS TRULY PAINFUL...

LET'S GO! COME ON, LET'S GIVE IN TO THE ENDLESS TEMPTA-TIONS OF THE NIGHT!

WELL IF YOU WANT TO HOLD SOMEONE SO MUCH, WE'LL FIND YOU SOME GIRLS TO HOLD!

!?

!!

A FATHER'S... INFLUENCE... IS SUFFICIENT.

DON'T WORRY!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU LITTLE BASTARD! AT YOUR DAUGHTER'S CRUCIAL HOUR...

AS HER FATHER, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD COMFORT HER!?

BESIDES STAYING TOGE-THER, THE THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR DAUGHTER ARE LIMITED.

THOSE THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT TO THEIR MOTHERS, SO WHY DON'T WE JUST GO AND CELEBRATE OUR DAUGHTER'S GROWING UP?

...

WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE, OUR GETTING INVOLVED IN THEIR LOVE LIFE... WILL SURELY BE TROUBLE-SOME...

...

NO BUTS!

...

BUT, SAEBA...

LET'S GO! THE GIRLS ARE WAIT-ING FOR US!

...

DAIKYU

I COULD USE SOME COFFEE...

WELL... I SUPPOSE...

SFX: SNIFF

SFX: GROAN

AH, HOW CAN I BE SO STUPID!? I'VE BEEN STUDYING FOR A YEAR AND I STILL CAN'T GET IT RIGHT!

IF YOU WANT TO BE IN MY LEAGUE, IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER 10 YEARS.

AAH!

40 POINTS!

YOU NEED TO MAKE A NEW BATCH!

WHAT ARE YOU... FOR WHOM DO YOU...

WISH TO MAKE A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE FOR...?

THAT LONG!? IS THERE SOME SECRET TO THIS OR SOMETHING? MR HAYATO!!

10 YEARS !?

AND YOU USED TO BE SO DETERMINED, SHIN-HON...

IF THAT'S THE CASE ...!?

HOPING, WISHING FOR THAT PERSON TO SAY "IT'S DELICIOUS!" CONCENTRATING ON YOUR PREPARATION, IF THAT'S THE CASE...

...

IF HE'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC, WHY DID HE SET HIS GOAL SO LOW?

FINE!! 50 POINTS... WHATEVER! I'LL SHOW THE GUY WHO SAID MY COFFEE SUCKS! MY NEXT GOAL IS 68 POINTS!

YOU MIGHT EARN 50 POINTS! (WITH YOUR CURRENT TECHNIQUE, THAT IS...)

10 EXTRA POINTS ...?

J-JUST ...

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO COME ALONE AT THIS TIME...

...

SHANIN...

Ding

I JUST... COULD USE A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE ...

DON'T KNOW WHY...

!?

YOU HAVE TO TRY HARD NOW. THE GOAL IS 100 POINTS!

HUH? WHO, ME?

!?

HEY!

SHAN-

*Toc-
poc*

*Toc-
poc*

SFX: COFFEE PERCOLATING

...

*Toc-
poc*

...

KAORI-MAMA LOVES COFFEE...

WHY... DID I SUDDENLY WANT A DRINK OF COFFEE...?

BUT BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF MAMA'S MEMORIES... I'VE STARTED TO ENJOY IT...

SHE MUST HAVE USED COFFEE TO CALM HER FEELINGS...

WHEN KAORI-MAMA WAS FEELING DOWN...

SFX: COFFEE PERCOLATING

I'VE NEVER EVEN HAD COFFEE IN THE PAST...

コポ…

STRANGE...

THAT MY FEELINGS FOR NATSUME...

ARE BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF KAORI-MAMA'S MEMORIES...!?

COULD IT BE POSSIBLE ...!?

IS THAT IT...? KAORI-MAMA?

PLEASE TELL ME!

IT'S NOT ...

...

TRUE LOVE ...!?

...

...PLEASE ENJOY...

Ah-Shan...

ピクッ!

...!

フゥ...

Ah-Shan...

Your feelings of love... whether influenced by my feelings or not

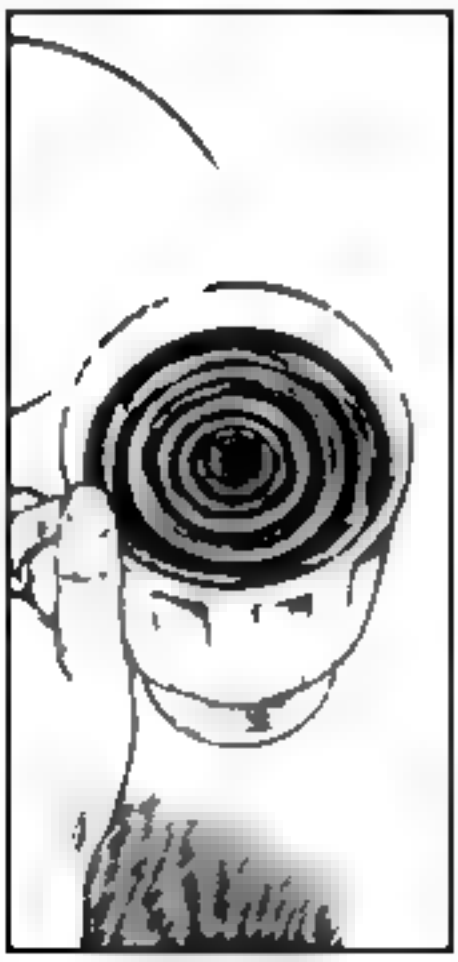
Even I'm not sure

but, Ah-Shan

MAMA...!

yet we knew these feelings of adoration were sinful and the sadness of love

the person we adore, who is our love, their moods and feelings should be very clear to you now



HE'S BEEN PRACTICING EVERY DAY SO SHANIN COULD HAVE A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE!

...

HA-HAYATO!

THAT CUP OF COFFEE WAS MADE BY SHIN-HON.

OH, EH... (KINDA MADE IT IN FRONT OF YOU...)

WAS MADE BY SHIN-HON?

THIS...

SO, UH, HOW DOES IT TASTE?

...

SU-

SUCCESS!!

EH...

IT'S VERY GOOD...

...

SHIN-HON...

THE PERSON BESIDE YOU...

THE MOOD AND FEELINGS OF THOSE IN LOVE...

...

WHAT'S GOING ON...?

!!

SFX: SIP

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HUH?

I'M SORRY...

THANK YOU... AND ALSO...

IT'S NOTHING ...

HEH... 45 POINTS!

HEY, WHAT IS IT...?

NO...

GAH, SUCH A HEAD-ACHE! WHY IS HE SUCH A WEEPY DRUNK?

UWAH HA HA! I'M SO HAPPY, BUT SO DEPRESSED!

END OF VOLUME 9